Today

The magazine of the Medical College of Georgia

Summer 2006

Volume 34 Number 1

A Go-Forward Blueprint

School of Medicine Dean
D. Douglas Miller

Cancer Center Director
Kapil N. Bhalla

A Symbol of Preeminence
Cancer Research Center Unveiled

Faces of Cancer
MCG Helps Patients live Full, Healthy Lives

From the Presidents

There's a crackle in the air on campus these days ... the crackle of creativity.

The MCG community has many wonderful attributes, but creativity is the one that comes to mind right now as existing faculty ratchet up their efforts and new recruits bring an infusion of new ideas to campus.

For instance, newly recruited Cancer Center Director Kapil N. Bhalla speaks of "dreaming the impossible," a concept that transcends science and hints at the passion and dedication that characterize our commitment to battling cancer. But make no mistake: science holds the key to transforming this dream into a reality, and MCG researchers are working hard to make that happen.

Another new face on campus, School of Medicine Dean Doug Miller, cites a "go-forward blueprint," an apt symbol of his guidepost in elevating the school to new heights.

These are but two of the many new faces on campus whose energy and creativity are supplementing the extraordinary contributions of longtime faculty and staff. Their efforts are all aimed at improving the health of Georgians while we launch exceptionally well-prepared new health care providers and biomedical researchers into the workforce.

Drs. Bhalla's and Miller's appointments roughly coincided with the most exciting MCG event of the year: commencement. This year's speaker, Dr. Julie Gerberding, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, noted that leadership is a privilege.

As I oversee a period of unprecedented achievement and creativity on campus, I could not agree more.

Sincerely,

Daniel W. Rahn

Daniel W. Rahn, M.D.
President, Medical College of Georgia

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2006 study of 2003 data predicts that nearly 300,000 men and 275,000 women in the United States will die this year from cancer. According to this study, the cancer death rate has decreased only slightly since 1950. Of the 1.4 million new cancer cases predicted to occur in the United States this year, 36,500 of them will be diagnosed in Georgia.

The Medical College of Georgia and MCG Health System exist to improve health. Accomplishing that requires much more than technical competence and scientific know-how. It requires that we apply our clinical services, academic programs and research to improving the lives of our fellow human beings, one patient and one family at a time. Toward that end, we bring the full weight of our skills and talents, innovations and creativity, and scientific curiosity and discovery to bear on understanding and fighting cancer.

In this issue of *MCG Today*, you will read about the powerful tools we have amassed in our fight to understand, prevent, detect, treat and control the course of the disease. These tools give us great confidence and optimism that we will one day best this formidable opponent.

We pledge to remain focused on cancer, doing our part to reduce its toll on all of us and our families. Please join us in this effort. Together, we can make a difference.

Sincerely,

Don Snell

Don Snell
President and Chief Executive Officer
MCG Health, Inc.

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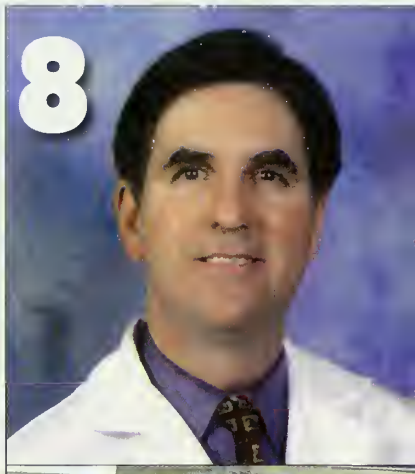

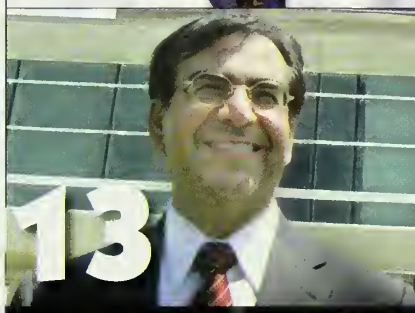

HARNESSING KNOWLEDGE

MCG's Cancer Center director shares his vision for success.

PATIENT ADVOCATE

The Beard Award honors a medical student's compassion.

INNOVATIONS IN EDUCATION

Digital recording technology makes coursework portable.

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NEWS BRIEFS

High Priority

A new building for the School of Dentistry could come sooner than originally thought if a recommendation by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents is approved by the state legislature.

A new priority plan presented at a June 6 board meeting recommends that the university receive $5 million to plan the new building. This is one of seven projects identified as a high priority for the university system and the state of Georgia. Board members approved the list in August and will present it to Gov. Sonny Perdue for inclusion in the 2008 state budget. The School of Dentistry building was previously ranked number 23 on the priority list.

The money would be used to plan, design and prepare a possible future site of the building.

Dr. Rahn Named Senior Vice Chancellor

MCG President Daniel W. Rahn has been named to the new position of senior vice chancellor for health and medical programs for the University System of Georgia. Dr. Rahn will incorporate his new responsibilities into his role as MCG president.

His appointment is part of a major reorganization of the University System Office announced June 7 by Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr.

"I am honored to be asked to lead this effort," said Dr. Rahn. "Our state has an existing shortage of health care professionals that is expected to worsen in the years ahead. It is logical and desirable that the University System of Georgia and the Medical College of Georgia, the state's health sciences university, take the lead in addressing this shortage."

Dr. Rahn recently chaired the USG-appointed Task Force on Health Professions Education, which analyzed the state's need for health professionals and made recommendations.

Celebration Tops $922,000

The local Children's Miracle Network Celebration Broadcast celebrated a total of $922,136 raised in the past year to benefit programs and services at the MCG Children's Medical Center. During the June 3-4 weekend telethon alone, broadcast on NBC26, pledges and donations exceeded $29,000, surpassing last year's pledges by more than $4,000.

"As our parents have told us many times, you never realize how important a children's hospital is until you need it. But we can't do our jobs without the support of our friends and neighbors," said Connie Guinn, CMN director. "Thanks to the generosity of our community, our families, our staff and NBC26, this has truly been one of our most successful celebrations ever."

Heart-Smart

The MCG Cardiovascular Center has teamed with Augusta-area restaurants to identify heart-healthy menu items. These items have less than 20 grams of total fat and 10 grams of saturated fat. The MCG-certified Heart Healthy Dining Program decal is displayed in the windows of participating restaurants and the heart-healthy logo alerts diners to the menu items.

Participating restaurants are:

Beamie's at the River
865 Reynolds Street
706-724-6593

Boll Weevil Café and Sweetery
Riverwalk
10 Ninth Street
706-722-7772

French Market Grille
Surrey Center
425 Highland Avenue
706-737-4865

Takosushi
Surrey Center
437 Highland Avenue
706-736-9191

Inventors Lauded

Thirty-eight scientists were lauded during MCG's first Creativity Awards Luncheon April 26.

Honorees—those who submitted invention disclosures or are named on patents issued in fiscal 2005—were Donald Mettenburg and William Hamilton as well as Drs. Bao-Ling Adam, Yolanda Adams, Belamurali Ambati, Jatinder Bhatia, Erhard Bieberich, Roni Bollag, James Borke, Susan Fagan, Vadivel Ganapathy, Gloria Garner, Willie Guion, David Hess, Stephen Hsu, Tohru Ikuta and Carlos Isales.

Also, Drs. Alan Johnson, Stilianos Kountakis, Carol Lapp, Jeffrey Lee, Mark Lee, Andrew Mellor, Regina Messer, Jacob Moore, David Munn, David Pashley, Jeffrey Rausch, Frederick Reuggeberg, Edmond Ritter, Vincent Robinson, Jin-Xiong She, Prem Shekhawat, John Stockstill, Alvin Terry, Cong-Yi Wang, Richard White and Wen-Cheng Xiong.

photo provided

Dr. Charles Nawrot, director of the Office of Technology Transfer and Economic Development, presents an award to Dr. Stephen Hsu.

Honoring Excellence

MCG President Daniel W. Rahn congratulates Kathryn Bayman Cargile, an occupational therapy student in the School of Allied Health Sciences, for recognition by the Georgia General Assembly as an excellent representative of scholastic achievement. One student in each University System of Georgia institution received the award in observance of Academic Recognition Day May 5.

Pool Party

Dr. W.H. Pool Jr. (left, with MCG Department of Radiology Chair Jim Rawson) was the guest of honor during the annual Pool Society Weekend in Augusta March 3-4. The society was formed in 2005 to honor the contributions of Dr. Pool, Professor Emeritus and chair of the MCG Department of Radiology from 1974-87. Festivities included a continuing medical education program and several receptions.

Wesley Hobbs

Women in Medicine

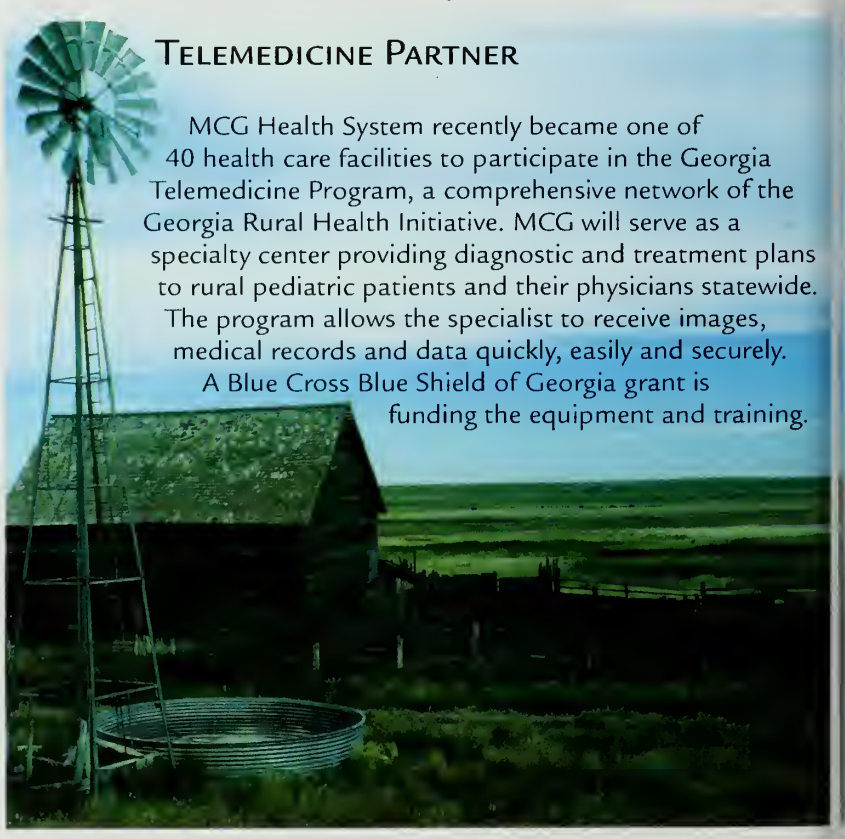
MCG Medical Historian in Residence Lois T. Ellison was a guest of honor during the March 14 opening reception of the traveling exhibition "Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians." Dr. Ellison was one of the physicians featured in the exhibition, which was on display in the Greenblatt Library through April 21.

Lab Re-accredited

MCG's laboratory animal care program has been re-accredited for three years by the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International. The private, nonprofit association based in Rockville, Md., promotes the humane treatment of animals in science through a voluntary accreditation program.

MCG's Office of Laboratory Animal Services has maintained full accreditation by the association since 1978; accreditation is re-evaluated every three years.

The association team noted strong administrative support for the animal care and use program as evidenced by the addition of a new animal facility in the Interdisciplinary Research Building Phase II, as well as an engaged and effective Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.



Telemedicine Partner

MCG Health System recently became one of 40 health care facilities to participate in the Georgia Telemedicine Program, a comprehensive network of the Georgia Rural Health Initiative. MCG will serve as a specialty center providing diagnostic and treatment plans to rural pediatric patients and their physicians statewide. The program allows the specialist to receive images, medical records and data quickly, easily and securely. A Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia grant is funding the equipment and training.

Certifying Site

The MCG Children's Medical Center has been named an exam site for Certified Pediatric Nurse designation, given by the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board. By completing the exam locally, the exam fee will be discounted to $250 and nurses will receive scores within three weeks of testing. Interested pediatric nurses must complete an application online at www.pncb.org and document 3,600 hours of pediatric nursing practice. The test date for the 75-question written exam, proctored by CMC nursing leaders, is Oct. 28.

RESEARCH

Thyroid Options

Many patients with diseased thyroids have two safe, effective treatment options that can dramatically reduce the size of their neck incisions and speed recovery, researchers say.

Options include minimally invasive thyroidectomy, in which surgeons work through an incision about half the size of the norm, and an endoscopic approach, in which video monitoring and a thin, ultrasonic scalpel reduce incision size another half.

"Both work well; both have a place in a usual practice," said Dr. David J. Terris, chair of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and lead author on research looking at the safety and efficacy of the newer approaches published in the March issue of *Laryngoscope*.

Dr. David J. Terris

The online edition also features accompanying surgery video for the first time. Dr. Terris hopes the video of the endoscopic approach will be a good first step for physicians interested in adopting these techniques. Practice on cadavers as well as observing the surgery first-hand are two important additional steps, he said.

Second-Hand Smoke

Dr. Martha Tingen, a nurse researcher at the Georgia Prevention Institute, is the principal investigator on a $220,000 National Institute of Nursing Research grant determining whether exposure to second-hand smoke increases the chance that children with a family history of cardiovascular disease will develop the disease.

Researchers will study 585 teens who have a parent, grandparent or both with essential hypertension and/or a heart attack by age 55. They will look for adverse clinical cardiovascular measures, including reduced ability of arteries to dilate; the blood encountering increased resistance as it travels through vessels; higher blood pressure; and an increase in the size of the pumping change of the heart—a result of pumping against elevated pressure.

Retinopathy Protection

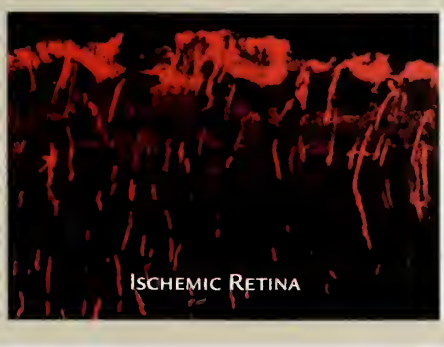
A compound found in marijuana may help protect the eyes of diabetics, researchers say.

Early studies indicate cannabidiol works as a consummate multi-tasker to protect the eye from growing a plethora of leaky blood vessels, the hallmark of diabetic retinopathy, said Dr. Gregory I. Liou, molecular biologist.

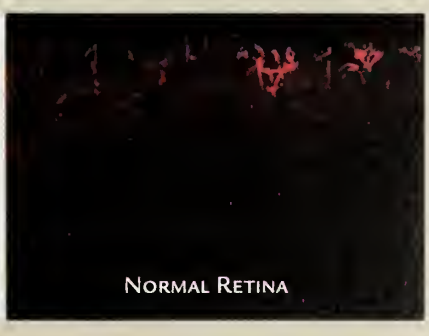
"We are studying the role of cannabinoid receptors in our body and trying to modulate them so we can defend against diabetic retinopathy," he said. Diabetic retinopathy is the leading cause of blindness in working-age adults and affects nearly 16 million Americans.

High glucose levels resulting from unmanaged diabetes set in motion a cascade ultimately causing the oxygen-deprived retina to grow more blood vessels. Ironically, the leaky surplus of vessels can ultimately destroy vision.

Dr. Liou, who recently received a $300,000 grant from the American Diabetes Association, wants to intervene earlier in the process, as healthy relationships inside the retina first start to deteriorate.



Ischemic Retina



Normal Retina

Protein Power

Finding how two proteins conspire to get kidney cells to self-destruct when oxygen supplies are low may one day improve dismal mortality rates for ischemic renal failure, researchers say.

Dehydration, low blood pressure, septic shock, trauma or removing a kidney for transplantation can temporarily halt or reduce blood and oxygen supplies, said Dr. Zheng Dong, a cell biologist.

Ischemia leads to cell suicide, or apoptosis, particularly in the energy-consuming tubular cells of the kidney. Fifty-percent mortality rates from resulting ischemic renal failure haven't changed in nearly as many years, Dr. Dong said.

Tubular cells—which have the daunting daily task of reabsorbing nearly 50 gallons of usable fluid volume, including salt and glucose the kidneys filter from the blood every 24 hours—are particularly vulnerable to apoptosis and injury, Dr. Dong said.

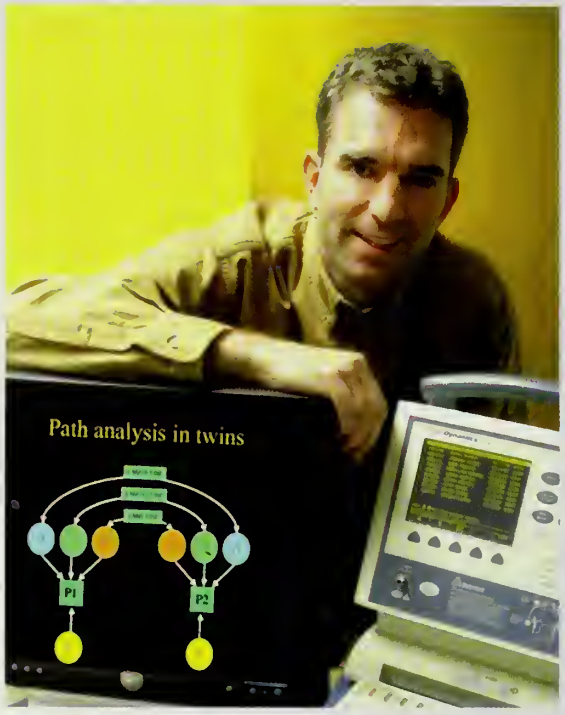
It's in this oxygen-deprived environment that two proteins, Bid and Bax—each a known killer in its own right—are activated and may partner to induce cell death. The killing proteins are pervasive, particularly in the kidneys, said Dr. Dong, who recently received a $1 million grant from the National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases, to better understand their role in cell death during ischemic renal failure.

Stem Cell Treatment

A single dose of adult donor stem cells can significantly enhance recovery of animals with neurological damage similar to that of a stroke or cerebral palsy, said Dr. Cesario V. Borlongan, an MCG neuroscientist.

Dr. Cesario V. Borlongan

MCG researchers administered human stem cells into the brains of animals with significant loss of mobility and other functions. The cells were a recently discovered adult stem cell type called multipotent adult progenitor cells. Treated animals experienced at least 25 percent greater improvement in motor and neurological performance than controls. In humans, the findings ideally will translate into incremental but important recovery advances, said Dr. David Hess, chair of the MCG Department of Neurology and a study co-author.



Dr. Harold Snieder

Genes and Blood Pressure

Genes involved in controlling blood pressure change during adolescence, according to a study of more than 500 pairs of twins.

The study showed that changes in gene expression between ages 14 and 18 accounted for up to a third of the blood pressure variation that occurred by adulthood, said Dr. Harold Snieder, genetic epidemiologist. He and his colleagues found genetics explained 25 percent to 64 percent of the individual differences in blood pressure and hemodynamics. Genes also played a major role—between 60 percent and 100 percent—in the consistency they saw in the measures over the four-year period. Most surprisingly, Dr. Snieder said, was the emergence of novel genetic influences that accounted for up to a third of the total variation at age 18.

"A substantial part of the individual differences between the twins were due to new genetic effects between this period of age 14 and 18," Dr. Snieder said. "There are new genes that are involved in blood pressure and factors underlying blood pressure. The next step is following these kids to see whether the genetic effects stabilize or, after another three or four years, there is another large jump in the new genetic effect."

Cancer Screening

Studies comparing the blood of patients with head and neck cancer with that of healthy people revealed numerous differences in protein expression, MCG researchers have found.

"We found scores and scores of proteins that were differentially expressed," said Dr. Christine Gourin, MCG otolaryngologist specializing in head and neck cancer and the study's lead author. "We found there are at least eight proteins whose expression significantly differs between controls and people with cancer."

This protein fingerprint correctly classified study participants as cancer patients with a high degree of sensitivity and specificity—82 percent and 76 percent, respectively, according to research published in *Archives of Otolaryngology*.

"If these results hold up over time, they would suggest that this would be a good screening test for at-risk people," Dr. Gourin said.

Within REACH

REACHMD Consult, a freestanding corporation based at MCG Health System, has won $100,000 in funding and $150,000 in in-kind services from the first Georgia Research Alliance/Technology Association of Georgia New Business Launch Competition. Developed by the MCG Neuroscience Center, REACH (Remote Evaluation of Acute isCHemic Stroke) provides expert telehealth stroke care via a secure Web portal.

"Stroke care is often not available to patients at rural hospitals," said Dr. David Hess, chief of neurology at MCG Health System and a member of the company's Board of Directors. "We developed REACH in 2003 to help patients from rural hospitals in Georgia. Thanks to this award, we will now be able to commercialize and expand the REACH program even farther."

Once commercialized, the REACH program could become a turnkey system that hospitals nationwide could use to provide expert acute stroke consultation.

Back Pain Relief

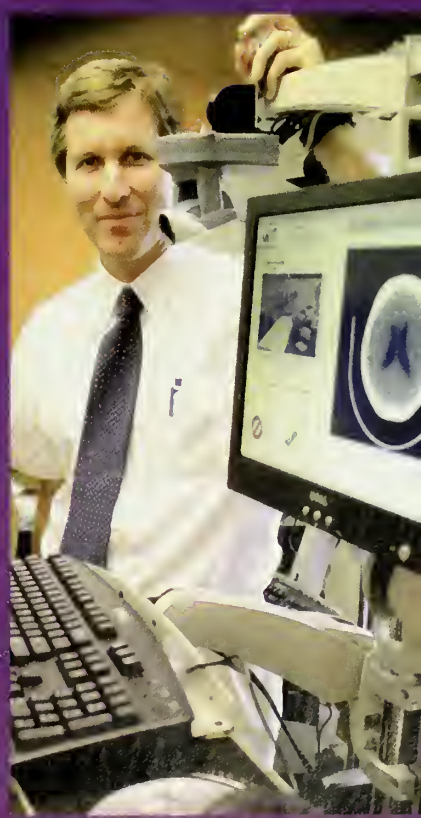
Painful bulges on the spinal column can be treated without an incision, according to Dr. Jeffrey A. Stone, chief of interventional neuroradiology, who discussed the procedure—percutaneous diskectomy—May 2 during the 44th annual meeting of the American Society of Neuroradiology in San Diego.

The disks that cushion the spinal column lose elasticity over time, which can cause gelatinous disk innards to bulge, pressing on nearby nerves and causing pain in the lower back and legs, Dr. Stone said.

This latest approach to treating disk herniation uses X-ray to guide insertion of a needle through skin and muscle directly into the disk and eliminate the portion of the bulging nucleus that is causing pain, Dr. Stone said.

After accessing the disk, the puncturing stylet is removed so the needle then functions as a cannula through which devices are inserted to vaporize or suction out excess gelatinous substance.

"The goal," said Dr. Stone, "is to reduce the pressure and inflammatory factors in the disk with a minimal amount of removal."



Dr. David Hess

A Go-Forward Blue

School of Medicine Dean Builds on Medical, Business Acumen

His favorite place for teaching is the patient's bedside.

"Teaching is intense, cooperative moments between a student, professor and patient," says Dr. D. Douglas Miller.

It's easy for students to see from this vantage point how much learning matters. The new dean of the Medical College of Georgia School of Medicine wants students to know from day one how much they matter as well.

"I want to meet them early. I want to get them truly anticipatory about the kind of impact they are going to make in this state and around the country in a few years' time," he says. He wants students to be a part of today's breathtaking medical progress as well as the legacy of the nation's 13th-oldest medical school.

Dr. Miller recognizes this is intuitive for many of the bright young people who have chosen a career in medicine, but that doesn't let the institution off the hook. "I want the young men and women who come through this school to be excited about being part of the MCG family and the school's tradition.

print

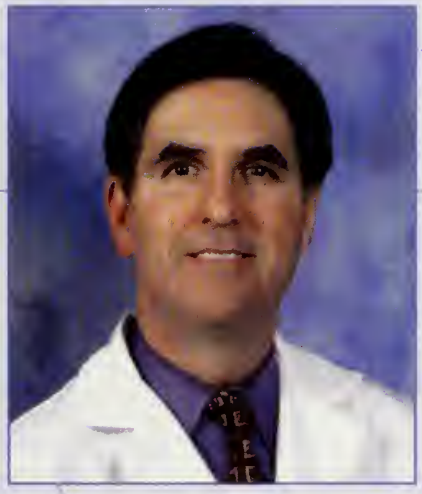


Photo provided

"I firmly believe that the reason a school of medicine exists is not simply to do health care delivery, nor even to do research. It's really to educate and bring people at all levels to a better understanding of medicine, whether it's doctoral students or young physicians or established physicians."

Of course, excellent teaching translates into excellent patient care and research, a package the 51-year-old dean believes MCG is well-positioned to deliver. He takes the lead of a medical school at a time many might consider tough going, with unprecedented competition for research and educational funding.

"There is no free money any more; there is no free lunch. "It's all very competitive, but I think this institution is committed to being competitive. MCG will be in the mix of institutions competitive for new and existing research dollars, educational funds and other types of support institutions need to be successful. It won't be easy. It's an uphill battle because you are competing with some of the finest institutions in the country for those dollars."

His sense that the university seems ready to take on the best of them is one reason he decided to come to MCG from Saint Louis University School of Medicine, where he chaired the Department of Internal Medicine.

This positive positioning comes in part from the university's fundamental relationship as the state's health sciences university, he says. "There are many other institutions around the country that either don't have that priority or that commitment."

MCG's positioning also comes from being a health sciences campus, with a ready mix of health sciences professions, he says.

The best competitive advantage is the people who optimize that mix. "Every clinical setting involves the participation of physicians and nurses and allied health professionals and, increasingly, experts in dentistry," Dr. Miller says.

When he visited the campus, he didn't see the organizational silos he'd seen elsewhere. "The culture appears to be one of collaboration. The competitive juices are there, but they are not internally directed." Both are important, says Dr. Miller, who started his new duties July 1. "When I came to MCG, I saw a lot of opportunity for personal growth by joining an organization that is ascendant. I see it as a chance to grow personally and improve on a very strong organizational base that is already here. That strength is something a lot of people should feel good about."

He approaches his new job with a tad of transition anxiety but with clear commitment to lead—as any good teacher might—by example, keeping his hands in the teaching, clinical and research mix.

As he talks about his own career, the importance of mentors becomes clear, from his childhood physician in Canada, Dr. Clare Flint, to McGill University cardiologist Tom Hale, who inspired his love of cardiology, to the former head of cardiology at Emory University, Dr. J. Willis Hurst (MCG School of Medicine class of 1944), a renowned teacher and prolific medical writer.

Dr. Patricia L. Monteleone, dean of Saint Louis University School of Medicine, for 13 years, also has a prominent place on the list. A visitor to that medical school once told Dr. Miller that Dr. Monteleone 'gets it.' "You have to get it," he says. "You have to be able to understand the institutional vision right down to the level of what the students are looking for in their educational experience."

Dr. Monteleone says her former medicine chair *does* get it. "Dr. Miller is bright with strong leadership skills and work ethic," she says. "He is creative in strategic thinking as well as personable and a good manager. He will be a fine addition to your leadership team at the Medical College of Georgia."

"When I came to MCG, I saw a lot of opportunity for personal growth by joining an organization that is ascendant. I see it as a chance to grow personally and improve on a very strong organizational base that is already here. That strength is something a lot of people should feel good about."

Early support can turn students on to medicine and science, Dr. Miller says, possibly inspiring a career in academic medicine. "You have to commit the time and energy as an institution to foster the career of the faculty and to make sure they continue to grow and make progress. That is what really keeps people in academics. If people are contributing and working on a positive trajectory, then they will be happy and productive in an academic career."

One of his many goals as dean is keeping this commitment to MCG faculty. "I think medical school deans are given a great opportunity to lead," he says. He got a taste of leadership in 1996 at Saint Louis University, when he was named associate chair of internal medicine and head of internal medicine programs at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Three years later, he became residency director for his department. The next year, he was named chair of the department, which is responsible for about 40 percent of the activity in the medical school. Administrative roles taught him the business side of his profession and how to work for change within the system. During these years, he took business courses, completing his executive master of business administration in international business at Saint Louis University in 1999.

He steps into this new job with not only enthusiasm but with a focus that reflects his business sense.

"The fundamental dilemma of an academic health center is that it's expected to cover the entire waterfront, to be excellent in all areas," he says. However, reality and success mandate choices. "We recognize that there are finite resources and

that focused investment is required for scientific program development. We recognize that there are needs to be met and missions to be jointly pursued for education and health care delivery. We'll try to blend those priorities and opportunities into a strategic document that is a go-forward blueprint. Nobody really can plan much beyond three to five years in that regard, but I think we can see the trends and the need to focus is going to be a big part of MCG's competitiveness."

This year's freshman class of 190 is MCG's largest ever.

Where, how and if the next class needs to be even larger is an issue he'll be "kicking the tires on" early in his tenure. ⊶

Toni Baker

Dr. D. Douglas Miller is:

- The 32nd dean of the MCG School of Medicine
- A cardiologist who researches the inflammatory basis of coronary atherosclerosis, advanced imaging for the early detection of heart disease and the effects of gender on cardiovascular treatment and patient outcomes
- Former chair of internal medicine at Saint Louis University, executive director of Saint Louis University's Center for Biomedical and Health Care Research, chief of the Saint Louis University Hospital Medical Service and director of nuclear cardiology and SLUCare for Women at Saint Louis University
- Four-time papal and presidential physician on call in St. Louis
- A 1978 medical graduate of McGill University and 1999 MBA graduate of Saint Louis University School of Business and Administration
- An editorial board member of *Circulation, American Heart Journal, Journal of Nuclear Cardiology, Canadian Journal of Cardiology* and the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*
- A fellow of the American Heart Association, American College of Cardiology, Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada and American College of Physicians
- Married to wife Heather and father of two

A Symbol of Preeminence

MCG Cancer Research Center Unveiled

Citing "the personal stake [of every citizen] in finding more effective ways to prevent, detect, treat and eventually cure cancer," Medical College of Georgia President Daniel W. Rahn oversaw a March 10 ribbon-cutting of a facility intended to expedite the process.

Hundreds of Georgians, including many local and statewide dignitaries, were on hand for the unveiling of the five-story, 160,000-square-foot Cancer Research Center. The center will centralize cancer research as MCG accelerates its progress in preventing, diagnosing and treating the disease, with the ultimate goal of a cure.

Funding for the building reflected the collaborative spirit of the facility, with state appropriations supplemented by sources including MCG Health, Inc. margin funds, the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation Inc., MCG's Physicians Practice Group, the Georgia Research Alliance and Georgia Cancer Coalition.

"The opening of the Cancer Research Center strategically moves us closer to making the diagnosis of cancer a thing of the past," said Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue. "As your governor, I believe our state and our citizens deserve to have the finest cancer care available right here in Georgia. [The center] brings all those goals into reach."

The facility, he said, will serve as a statewide hub for research, including clinical trials of the latest cancer treatments. He applauded the efforts of legislators, corporations, community organizations and individual citizens to support the center. "The bottom line is this center is the result of a great team effort, and that is when we always win in Georgia," he said.

U.S. Rep. John Barrow, who represents Georgia's 12th District, related his family's grief upon losing a 6-year-old nephew to cancer. "That," he said, "is proof that we have to keep fighting to discover the next breakthrough, the next treatment, the next cure, for this dread illness."

President Rahn expressed confidence that the center will improve the health of Georgians while vaulting MCG toward national prominence in the field of cancer. "MCG has the capability to emerge as a national leader in cancer research and care," he said. "Indeed, one of our goals is to earn Comprehensive Cancer Center designation from the National Cancer Institute. The building ... stands as a symbol of our shared belief that we can achieve that level of preeminence." ➸

Christine Hurley Deriso

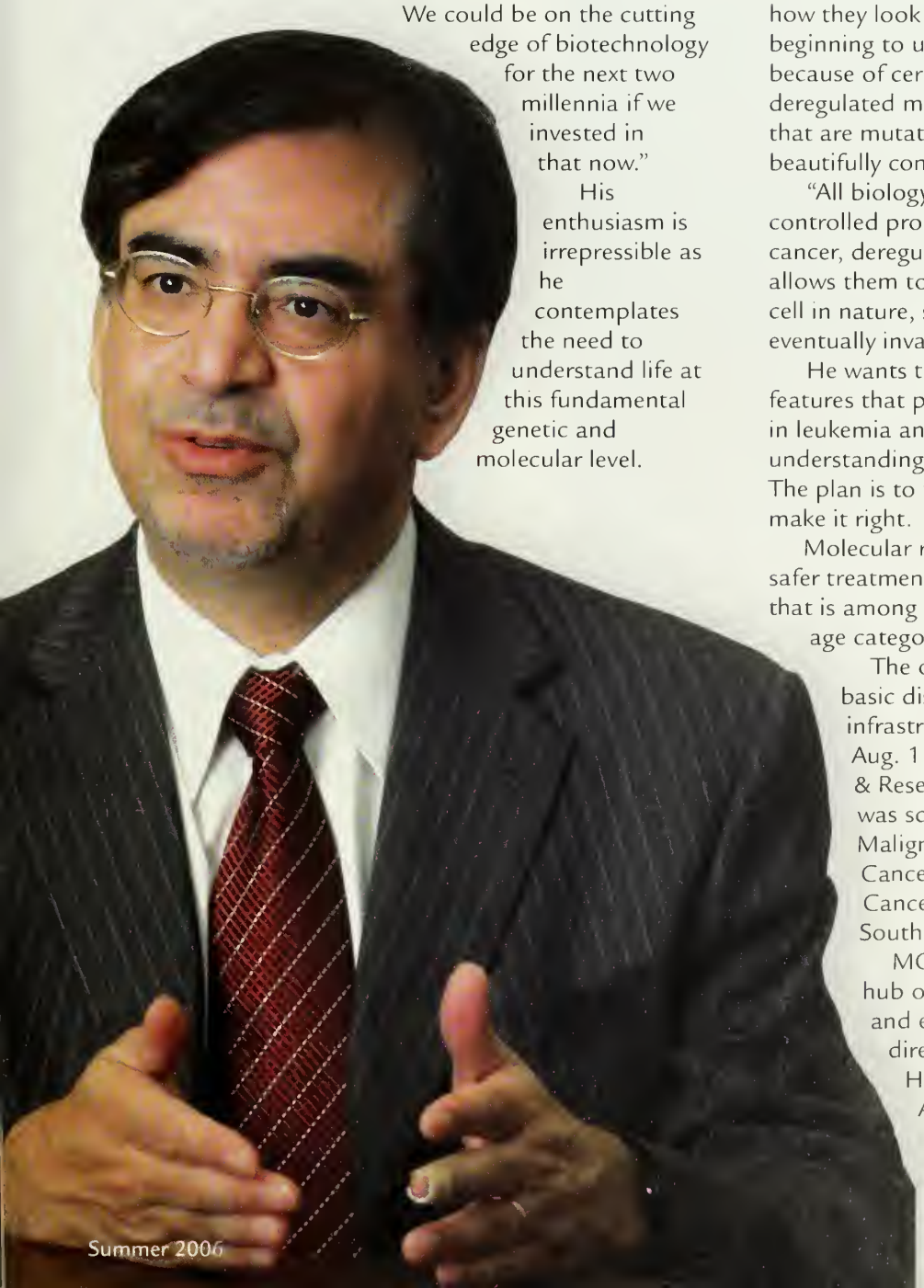
The new Cancer Research Center has 160,000 square feet of lab, office and meeting space.

Harnessing Knowledge

Cancer Center Director Shares Vision for Success

If he had his way, Dr. Kapil N. Bhalla would clone the vast genetic diversity of underwater life.

"You see these *Nova* and *National Geographic* shows with giant squid covered with cells that change in milliseconds to blend with the environment. What is the science behind that? Think about all the incredible life that can live 2,000 feet below the surface of the ocean, the biodiversity that exists there. We could be on the cutting edge of biotechnology for the next two millennia if we invested in that now."



His enthusiasm is irrepressible as he contemplates the need to understand life at this fundamental genetic and molecular level. Perhaps that is because his ultimate goal is to help save it.

The 53-year-old founding director of the Medical College of Georgia Cancer Center lies awake at night, his mind racing with the possibilities of building a center that does just that.

"Cancers will be known very differently 25 years from now. Right now, they are classified by how they look under a light microscope. But we are beginning to understand that cancer originates because of certain molecular problems, aberrations, deregulated molecular pathways with specific points that are mutated, over-expressed or no longer beautifully controlled.

"All biology in nature is very regulated, with controlled processes and chemical reactions. In cancer, deregulation doesn't kill cancer cells but allows them to acquire features that are actually stem cell in nature, so they just divide, survive and eventually invade and spread."

He wants to know how a cancer cell acquires features that put it on autopilot to grow. His studies in leukemia and breast cancer have focused on understanding this cell regulation gone wrong. The plan is to find cancer-selective targets to help make it right.

Molecular readjustments will ideally yield better, safer treatments and perhaps even cures for a disease that is among the nation's top-five killers for every age category except infancy.

The opportunity to build the clinical and basic discovery teams and supporting infrastructure brought Dr. Bhalla to MCG Aug. 1 from the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute in Tampa, Fla., where he was scientific director of the Hematologic Malignancies Program at this National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of South Florida.

MCG's new Cancer Research Center is the hub of focused, expanding scientific, clinical and educational initiatives Dr. Bhalla will direct in Augusta. He is wasting no time. His appointment was announced late April, and by early May, he and

"We have to dream the impossible to make it possible at some point. We have to create a team of people who are in it for the fun of science and, beyond that, making the lives of others better."

–Dr. Kapil Bhalla

Dr. Anand P. Jillella, chief of the Section of Hematology/ Oncology, had arranged for space on the fifth floor of MCG Medical Center to temporarily house treatment and clinical research.

Plans call for a permanent treatment/clinical research facility within two years, possibly right across Laney-Walker Boulevard from the Cancer Research Center and connected by a crosswalk. Such proximity will help patients sense and see the work on their behalf, Dr. Bhalla believes.

"We are not interested in the chemical reaction just for the beauty of the chemical reaction. We want to see how we can harness this knowledge and apply it to the welfare of our patients," says Dr. Bhalla. "Are we ever going to be able to put it in a bottle or a pill? Sometimes, very pure science initially will seem like pie in the sky. Then, over the years, things change. We have to dream the impossible to make it possible at some point. We have to create a team of people who are in it for the fun of science and, beyond that, making the lives of others better."

Such momentum requires the effort of many. Chief among them:

- The Georgia Research Alliance, a private, nonprofit corporation that works with business leaders and research universities to develop a technology-rich economy for the state. The alliance provided matching funds for the chair Dr. Bhalla holds and will complete a floor in the new research facility.

- The Georgia Cancer Coalition, which leads cancer initiatives statewide and has committed funds for nine new Distinguished Cancer Clinicians and Scientists in addition to the 11 scholars it already helps support at MCG. All told, Dr. Bhalla has packages to recruit 25 to 30 basic scientists, physician scientists and clinical scholars.

- The state of Georgia, which provided $1.4 million for planning and design and $8.6 million to construct the Cancer Research Center.

- MCG Health, Inc., which annually transfers margin funds to support MCG's research and educational missions.

- Georgia's congressional delegation, which secured $1.5 million in federal funding from the Department of Health and Human Services for construction and equipment.

- The Atlanta-based Robert W. Woodruff Foundation, Inc., which provided $2 million.

- MCG's Physicians Practice Group, which financed $30 million of the center's construction debt through bonds issued by the Richmond County Development Authority, which MCG will repay through annual payments.

- Gov. Sonny Perdue's office and the Georgia Legislature, which committed $5 million in fiscal 2006 budget to MCG cancer research. An additional $5 million was appropriated by the General Assembly in fiscal 2007. Funds may be renewed for an additional three years.

The support overwhelms the new director. "It's going to happen," Dr. Bhalla says. "We will be lean, mean and focused," starting with cancers such as head/neck, lung, breast, leukemia, prostate and perhaps cervical. "We want to start modestly so we are known to be the best for a few things. Then, as we build resources, we can tackle more."

The center will explore immunology and immunotherapy, cell signaling, prevention and control and developmental therapeutics.

Dr. Bhalla's assessment of MCG's existing expertise shows strengths in immunotherapy, cell signaling and molecular chaperones. But with Comprehensive Cancer Center designation by the National Cancer Institute as an ultimate goal, much work remains.

Dr. Bhalla, who was involved in early studies of one of the first small-molecule therapies, Gleevec, and newer ones for Gleevec-resistant leukemia patients, wants to bring more early-phase clinical trials to MCG and its patients. He plans to carry renderings of the new clinical facility as a trump card when meeting with drug company executives about these studies.

"I give a drug to Gleevec-resistant patients who could be dead in a few weeks, and they are playing golf a month later because you have eliminated billions of their leukemic cells," he says. "That is our mission, to bring those and other trials of targeted new agents here."

Each success will build on another: Patients' tumors will find their way to the lab to identify molecular changes and targeted therapies.

To help ensure he never forgets the real bottom line, Dr. Bhalla intends to keep treating patients at least a half-day per week. "Everything gets changed and is often stressful in the life of a cancer patient and his family," he says. "We need to help them." ➸

Toni Baker

Dr. Bhalla...

••• began Aug. 1 as founding director of the MCG Cancer Center and the Cecil F. Whitaker Jr., M.D./Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar in Cancer.

••• is a hematologist/oncologist and principal investigator on $4.7 million in research grants from the National Cancer Institute and Department of Defense to evaluate molecular targets to treat breast cancer and leukemia.

••• is a member of the American Society of Clinical Oncology's Scientific Program Committee on Developmental Therapeutics and a former member of the society's Scientific Program Committee Breast Track.

••• chairs the Neoplasia Committee of the American Society of Hematology, has chaired the National Institutes of Health's Developmental Therapeutics Study Section since 2004 and previously served on the NIH's Experimental Therapeutics Study Section.

••• has received an American Cancer Society Career Development Award and Leukemia Society of America Fellow and Scholar Awards.

••• is associate editor of *Cancer Research* and a member of the editorial boards of *Molecular Cancer Therapeutics, Clinical Cancer Research, Cancer Biology and Therapy* and *Cell Cycle*.

••• is a 1976 graduate of the University of Delhi's Maulana Azad Medical College in India and completed internships in pathology and internal medicine and a residency in internal medicine at St. Michael's Medical Center in Newark, N.J.

••• completed a postdoctoral fellowship in hematology/oncology at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York.

••• previously served on the faculties of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Medical University of South Carolina, Emory University and the University of Miami. He was associate director of Translational Sciences at Emory and chief of the Division of Clinical and Translational Research at the University of Miami.

••• is married to wife Kathy and has two children

The Faces of Cancer

MCG Helps Patients Live Full, Healthy Lives

With approximately 1.5 million Americans diagnosed with cancer annually, it's easy to lose sight of the faces behind the statistics.

But every cancer patient at MCG Health System is treated as an individual, with respect and compassion serving as guideposts along the way. Meet three of the faces behind the statistics:

Tamika Cook

Photo provided

"It was pure chance that I located the lump while shaving. Now, I urge all college-age women to begin receiving regular mammograms and to do monthly self-checks. I knew breast cancer was out there, but it doesn't mean as much until it touches you."

Tamika Cook was 27 when she became one of almost 200 breast cancer patients MCG Health System has treated in the past three years.

Her health care team's top priority was ensuring a full recovery, a goal routinely achieved. Breast cancer deaths have dropped 24 percent nationwide since 1990, thanks largely to better treatments and screenings.

"I never thought I needed to get a mammogram at my age," said Ms. Cook. "It was pure chance that I located the lump while shaving. Now, I urge all college-age women to begin receiving regular mammograms and to do monthly self-checks. I knew breast cancer was out there, but it doesn't mean as much until it touches you."

She underwent a mastectomy the day before her 28th birthday. The surgery revealed that the cancer hadn't spread; thanks to her fast action when discovering the lump, she needed no further treatment and has been cancer-free ever since. "Looking back, it was the best birthday present I could have received."

As a member of the MCG Breast Cancer Support Group and a volunteer for several American Cancer Society fundraisers, her goal now is to help pass along the gift to others. In 2003, Ms. Cook was named a local hero as part of the BMW of North America Inc. Ultimate Drive for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. "It is an unbelievable feeling," she said, "to help spread the word." ⊶

Ted Alba, 55, wasn't too surprised he was diagnosed with prostate cancer, second only to skin cancer in prevalence among American men. His younger brother had been diagnosed and treated two years earlier.

Dr. James Brown, an MCG urologist, performed laparoscopic surgery to remove the tumor. "He warned me going in that, if need be, we would switch to a traditional surgery, but fortunately, we didn't need to," Mr. Alba said.

"He warned me going in that, if need be, we would switch to a traditional surgery, but fortunately, we didn't need to."

Laparoscopic surgery involves inserting slender instruments, a scope and other tools through dime-sized slits in the body. Surgeons watch their progress on a monitor, precluding the need for major incisions that prolong recovery and increase the risk of side effects. "I was up and walking about within a few days," said Mr. Alba. "It was amazing."

His surgery was followed by radiation, then hormone deprivation therapy when the cancer persisted. The treatment, which shuts down the production of testosterone, is a lifesaver but ideally a stopgap measure, according to Mr. Alba's oncologist, Dr. Teresa Coleman. Research is brisk in areas including monoclonal antibody therapy, she said.

"I just want to get prostate cancer out of the way so I can go on with my life," said Mr. Alba. "I only need about three more years before a better treatment comes along." ➸

Ted Alba

Daniel Wager

Despite the fact that his grandfather died from leukemia in 1975, Daniel Wager, the manager of New Life Natural Foods in Augusta, never gave blood cancer any thought. "I was just too busy living life," said the 37-year-old mountain biker, golfer and frequent visitor to his local gym. That is, he didn't give it a thought until he was diagnosed with Stage II Hodgkin's lymphoma in December 2005.

"I feel that I'm in great hands all the way through my care. My doctors are really there for me. I can't say thank you enough. Now, I just want to get back to living life."

Mr. Wager had lost 20 pounds, and had night sweats and a cough that persisted several weeks. "I was completely shocked when I learned of the diagnosis. I always had bronchitis during cold-and-flu season each year, so when Dr. Meyer Schwartz (an MCG family medicine physician) sent me for an X-ray and a CT scan, I thought, 'Maybe they're looking for pneumonia.' When I got the diagnosis, I had to tell myself not to completely freak out without having a full understanding of what was going on."

Dr. Schwartz immediately provided that understanding.

"He was really on his toes and called in [Dr. Samuel Chan, an oncologist] fast," Mr. Wager said. "Within four to five days of diagnosis, I was undergoing my first round of chemo. I couldn't have asked for a better oncologist."

Mr. Wager finished chemotherapy in May and is completing radiation treatment. "Dr. Chris Sheils (radiation oncologist at the Georgia Radiation Therapy Center) is really a great guy. Between Dr. Chan, Dr. Schwartz and Dr. Sheils, I feel that I'm in great hands all the way through my care. My doctors are really there for me. I can't say thank you enough," Mr. Wager said. "Now, I just want to get back to living life." ⊶

Deborah Humphrey

Leadership is a Privilege

CDC Director Urges Graduates to Make Wise Choices

Photo provided

Dr. Julie Louise Gerberding, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, might be the 12th most powerful woman in the world, according to *Forbes* magazine, but she doesn't let the title go to her head.

"I keep a little 3-by-5 card taped to my computer screen at the CDC because there's something written on it that I need to remind myself of every morning, especially when times are kind of difficult," said Dr. Gerberding, who spoke at the Medical College of Georgia's 177th commencement ceremony May 12. "It says, 'Leadership is a privilege' and I have found over and over again in my days of service at CDC and other roles that I've had in my life that leadership really is a privilege."

Dr. Gerberding was the guest speaker for the event, in which 665 students received diplomas. Her advice for graduates was inspired by a recent meeting with the spiritual Tibetan leader, the Dalai Lama.

"He is a very simple man who leads a very simple life, but he often has very profound words of wisdom," she said. "He said something that has really haunted me since I heard it. He said, 'Judge your success by what you gave up in order to achieve it.' I really thought about that because success is wonderful, but it always does have some price."

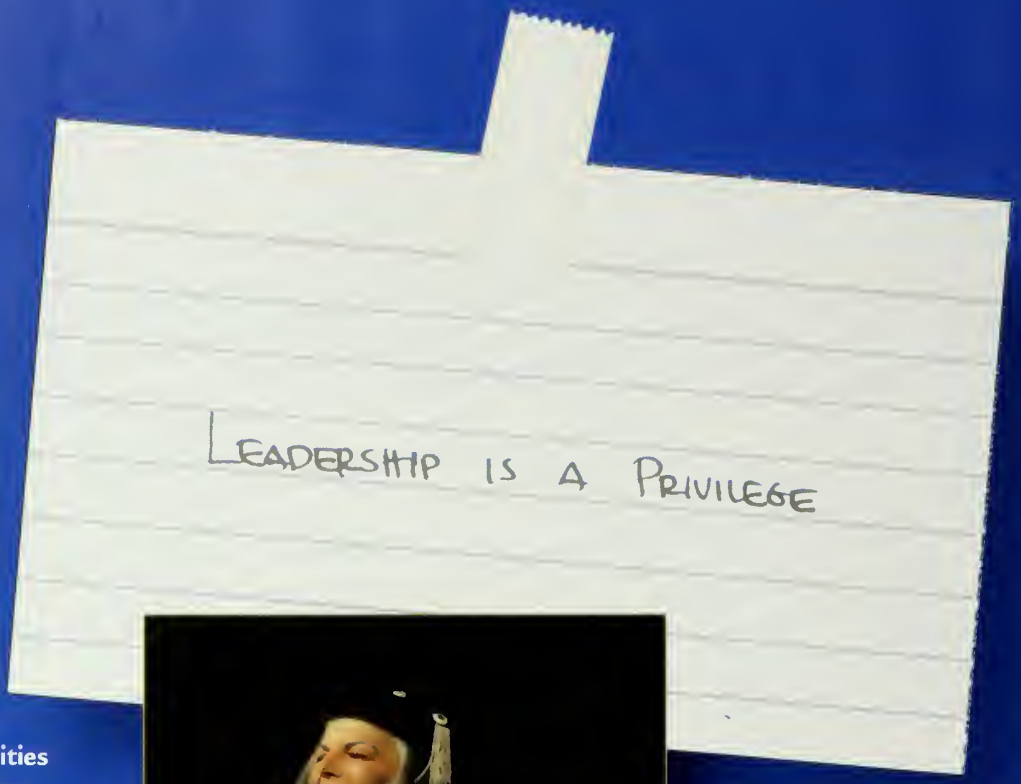
Dr. Gerberding congratulated the graduates on their extraordinary success, reminding them of the sacrifices they made

to achieve their academic degrees.

"You had to make choices and gave up some options that might have taken your life on a different pathway," she said. "You certainly had to give up some time with your family and your friends and your loved ones and perhaps some leisure activities and a few holidays and a few good nights of sleep along the way. These are reasonable things to give up for a period of time because it's worth it to be able to do what you're doing today." Dr. Gerberding reminded the graduates that some prices are too high.

"As you go forward in your careers, there will be many opportunities for you to be tempted to put your professional success or your patients or your work ahead of things that are far more valuable than even those," she said. "It will never be worth it to sacrifice your personal health, your exercise and your nutrition. It will never be worth it to sacrifice your mental health and it will never be worth it to sacrifice your social health, your relationships with the people who care for you and nurture you and help you with your continued success."

The Dalai Lama's words also apply in a more global sense to help people think more futuristically about the health care system, she said.



"We're living in a culture that puts far greater value on treating the consequences of disease than protecting health in the first place. I think to truly explain success in the health system, we have to change the paradigm and put far greater emphasis on health protection."

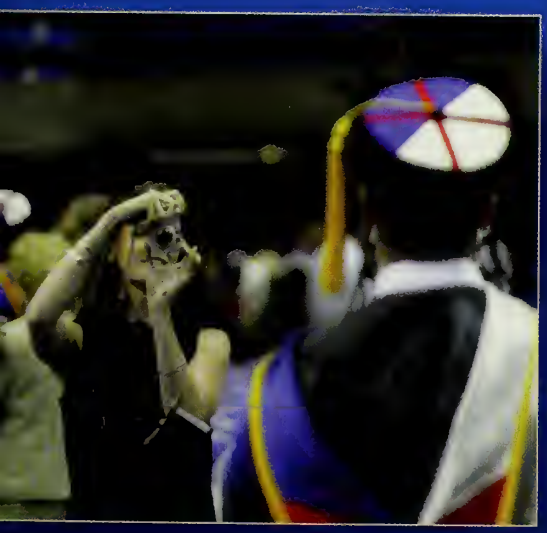
–Dr. Julie Louise Gerberding

"Certainly, we have a very successful health care system," Dr. Gerberding remarked. "We can do extraordinary things. We can transplant almost any body part. We can convert a disease like HIV infection, which at one time was almost always a death sentence, into a disease that people around the world are

- Allied Health Sciences
- Dentistry
- Graduate Studies
- Medicine
- Nursing

Six-hundred-and-sixty-five students in the Schools of Allied Health Sciences, Dentistry, Graduate Studies, Medicine and Nursing earned degrees during MCG's 177th commencement ceremony May 12.

The Augusta-Richmond County Civic Center was packed with family, friends and well-wishers as the graduates shared smiles, tears and squeals of joy marking the milestone.



Ross Taylor photos

being able to live with for longer and longer periods of time. We have vaccines that have absolutely made an extraordinary impact on child and now adult health around the world and we have drugs that can solve all kinds of disease problems."

Although the successes are extraordinary, they are not enough. "I think what we really want is health, and I'm not so sure that we've been so successful at achieving health for our society or at least equally for all members of our society," she said. "We're living in a culture that puts far greater value on treating the consequences of disease than protecting health in the first place. I think to truly explain success in the health system, we have to change the paradigm and put far greater emphasis on health protection."

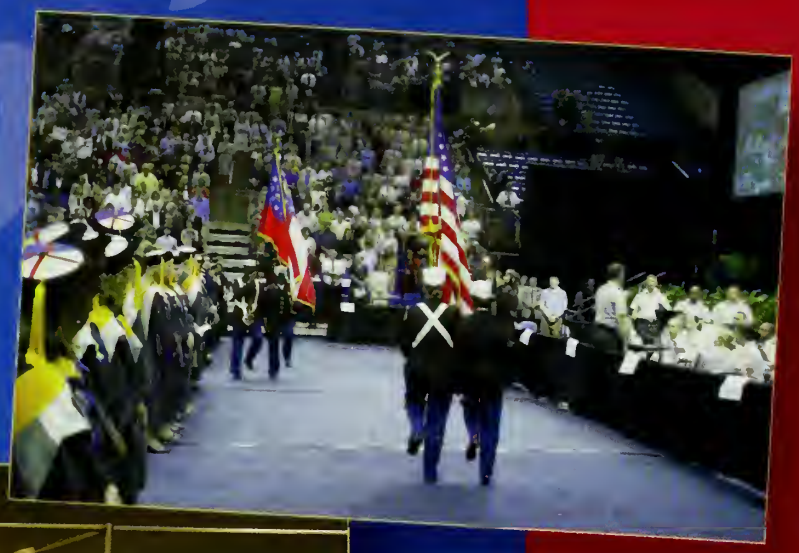
Of the $1.4 trillion the government spends on health care each year, 95 percent goes toward the last year of life and half of that toward the last four weeks, she said. "So we pay a lot of money for disease care but not very much to protect health and help people stay healthy in the first place."

Dr. Gerberding suggested that if Americans want a new paradigm, they must consider their goals. "I don't think we need a better health care delivery system and I don't think we need a better public health system—I think we need a better health-protection system," she said.

"We need a system that really does support people with decisions and the information and the tools and the culture and the concepts in which they can choose health," Dr. Gerberding said. "People need communities with sidewalks and access to parks and recreation. Children need physical education and healthy choices in the vending machine and cafeteria at school." Despite the problems in today's health system, she remains optimistic about the future and offered graduates advice on how to help.

"First of all, you can put health protection in action for yourself and your family," Dr. Gerberding said. "You can emphasize health protection and prevention for your patients, for your clients. You can definitely serve as advocates at the community level." ⇔

Kim Miller



Patient Advocate

Beard Award Honors Medical Student's Compassion

Dr. John Piede, who distinguished himself as a patient advocate during his education at the Medical College of Georgia, has received MCG's 2006 John F. Beard Award for Compassionate Care.

The $25,000 award is presented annually by William Porter "Billy" Payne and his wife, Martha, to a graduating MCG student who exemplifies caring and compassion in health care. Mr. Payne, recently named chair of the Augusta National Golf Club, established the award in 1998 to memorialize his father-in-law, who died of cancer in 1997.

The award honors MCG President Emeritus Francis J. Tedesco and Dr. Mark F. Williams, a 1988 graduate of the MCG School of Medicine who treated Mr. Beard during his hospitalization at MCG.

Dr. Piede earned a medical degree during MCG's May 12 commencement. A native of Atlanta, he graduated summa cum laude from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in applied biology. He was selected for the Georgia Tech Faculty Honors Award during each of his four years, and received the Herschel B. Clanton Junior Scholarship Award in 2001. He maintained a School of Medicine Faculty Scholarship throughout his MCG education. He was selected for several leadership roles, including the committee to recruit the associate dean of student affairs in 2004 and the School of Medicine Admissions Committee from 2003-06. He was an Office of Admissions tour guide for prospective medical students and president of the MCG chapter of the American Medical Student Association.

Dr. Piede also volunteered at Augusta's Salvation Army Homeless Clinic.

"John is one of the most genuinely compassionate, sensitive students I have known in more than 20 years on the MCG faculty," Dr. Ruth-Marie Fincher, vice dean for academic affairs, wrote in her nomination letter.

While completing rotations at the MCG Children's Medical Center, he often went beyond the call of duty to make his patients more comfortable, according to Dr. Robyn Hatley, professor of surgery and pediatrics.

"John, without prompting, would stay late to help the nursing staff, the house staff and even the janitorial staff," wrote Dr. Hatley.

Dr. Sam Schroerlucke, an orthopaedics resident who worked with Dr. Piede during his pediatric surgery rotation, recalled his interaction with a family being discharged from the hospital. Despite a busy schedule in the operating room that day, Dr. Piede took the time to help the patient out to his car.

"This extra attention meant so much to the patient and his mom," Dr. Schroerlucke wrote. "When I saw them back in clinic, they raved at how great it was that John gave them that personal attention. In retrospect, I remembered that I was a little upset with John that he wasn't as quick to move on to the next child as I. When that patient came back and expressed his gratitude for John's help, it again made me realize just how special John Piede is, not only as a physician, but as a person as well."

Dr. Piede began an internal medicine residency at Wake Forest University Baptist Hospital in June. ⊶

Kim Miller

Ross Taylor photos

Dr. Vincent Robinson (from right) and President Daniel W. Rahn present Beard Award to Dr. John Piede

Passing the Torch

Ob-Gyn Chair Reflects on Tenure as Successor Plans for the Future

Dr. Lawrence D. Devoe enjoys retirement reception with wife Anne

He likens his role to that of a show producer.

"You have to have a vision, and the overarching vision is, 'What do you want your show to look like?'" says Dr. Lawrence D. Devoe, who retired June 30 as Brooks Professor and chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

When he became interim chair in 1995, Dr. Devoe's vision was to offer the obstetrical and gynecological services women need and want. Today's reality is well on its way to being just that.

"We really have everything covered," says Dr. Devoe, reeling off advances that have made his department an "overnight sensation that only took 10 years."

For instance, the Section of Urogynecology/Pelvic Surgery, led by Dr. Sean L. Francis, "is taking off," Dr. Devoe says. "It's the newest area in our field that has been recognized as its own discipline." Its focus areas include female urologic dysfunction (largely incontinence, which will affect an estimated 20 million women by 2010) and prolapse, or weakening of the pelvic floor.

The Section of Reproductive Endocrinology, Infertility and Genetics, led by Dr. Lawrence C. Layman, "is in the top echelon nationally in terms of pregnancy success. It's an extraordinarily good program."

He lauded the collaborative efforts of his department's gynecologic oncology program with the community's medical oncology group. "They have really extended the sphere of cancer care," Dr. Devoe says of Drs. Michael S. Macfee's and Sharad A. Ghamande's innovative relationship with Augusta Oncology Associates.

He recently recruited Dr. Andrew W. Helfgott as chief of the Section of Maternal-Fetal Medicine, a post that Dr. Devoe assumed in 1984 and maintained throughout most of his chairmanship.

The Section of General Obstetrics and Gynecology is the largest section. Its highly successful program, Nurse Midwives of Augusta, is the only midwifery program in the region.

A complementary medicine section was a final piece of Dr. Devoe's plan. Drs. Jane Blackwell and Michelle Manting-Brewer, experts in acupuncture and holistic medicine, have filled that niche. "The demand for complementary medicine services is one of the most rapidly growing demand areas in medicine, targeting areas including chronic pelvic pain, migraine syndrome, painful menstruation and even infertility," says Dr. Devoe.

"There is a theme in both depth and breadth of services," he says. That theme has been played out during 10-plus hard years for the field of ob-gyn, with litigation and lifestyle issues severely diminishing the number of interested young doctors.

"You have to have a vision, and the overarching vision is, 'What do you want your show to look like?'"

–Dr. Lawrence D. Devoe

In the early 1990s, ob-gyn was one of the most popular residency choices for U.S. medical graduates. "Programs were competitive, hard to get into; about 90 percent of the positions filled through the annual match [of senior medical students with residency programs]," he says. Then, malpractice premiums skyrocketed, reimbursement rates plummeted and future doctors began looking at other options; some practitioners even got out, particularly of the delivery process. Today, about 70 percent of residency programs are filled by U.S. medical school graduates. "You can see where this is going; not all the folks who train here are going to stay in the United States," he says. "If the current trend continues, we will reach a critical point about 2010.

"The biggest problem in general obstetrics is that the expectation of perfection is 100 percent," says Dr. Devoe, a specialist in high-risk pregnancies who still loves the delivery room despite concerns that have sent others packing. "What a wonderful experience. You go into a room with two people and you leave the room and there is a family. You are the first person typically to touch the baby. It's a privilege and a gift to be able to do that."

He personally advises several medical students each year, telling them their choice of specialty is akin to choosing a marriage partner.

"A lot of this medicine business is about inspiration," says Dr. Devoe, whose original dream was to be a surgeon like his grandfather. The dream took a new direction at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine, when he worked as a medical student in the laboratory of Dr. Uwe Freese, an obstetrician studying factors that influence embryo implantation. Dr. Devoe went on to complete an ob-gyn residency and maternal-fetal medicine fellowship at the University of Chicago's Lying-In Hospitals and Clinics.

Dr. Devoe, along with Dr. Iqbal Khan, former student education coordinator and now assistant dean of MCG's Southwest Georgia Clinical Campus in Albany, helped reshape MCG's ob-gyn program to try to keep the dream alive for medical students and residents.

Moves have included the painful one of reducing the longtime affiliation with Augusta's University Hospital to meet the 80-hour weekly work limit of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

A happier move was sending medical students to alumni practitioners statewide—Dalton, Eastman, Valdosta, Rome,

Carrollton, LaGrange, Waynesboro and Albany—for their ob-gyn rotations. "The students love it," Dr. Devoe says. "They basically live with them for six weeks. It's really like adopting a child."

The strong clinical and education initiatives are fueled by vibrant research activity. "We have research faculty in virtually every one of the major research venues on campus," he says, referencing substantial National Institutes of Health funding and studies in cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, infection/ inflammation and neurological disease.

With his "overnight sensation" on task, Dr. Devoe decided to complete his vision by making this academic year his last as chair.

"These are hard jobs and I have only one gear," says Dr. Devoe. "The best time to do this is when you have good people, the department is in good shape, the programs are clicking and you have an attractive scenario for somebody good to come to. I also, philosophically, never wanted to do the same year twice."

Dr. Ana Alvarez Murphy, founding director of the Division of Reproductive Medicine and Infertility at Emory University School of Medicine and MCG's new ob-gyn chair, "brings a lot of good things to the table, a nice balance of research and clinical interests and high degree of motivation," Dr. Devoe says. (See related article, page 27.)

The good news is he went no farther than the labor and delivery suite of MCG Medical Centers where he continues the privilege of helping couples become families.

Toni Baker

Blazing

New Trails

New Chair Cites Faculty's Depth and Breadth of Knowledge

Dr. Ana Alvarez Murphy, founding director of the Division of Reproductive Medicine and Infertility at Emory University School of Medicine, joined MCG June 1 as the new chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the first director of the MCG Women's Health Center of Excellence.

"The recruitment of Dr. Murphy underscores our commitment to providing the Augusta community with the finest technology, techniques, family-focused care and facilities in the specialized area of women's health," said Don Snell, president and chief executive officer of MCG Health, Inc. "We are going to put together a women's health program like no other in the Augusta area, from standard services to unique specialties. Dr. Murphy's experience and leadership will make that possible."

"Our vision meshed," Dr. Murphy said of MCG and the MCG Health System's goal of building a stronger department that will serve as a nucleus for women's health. "The number-one thing that attracted me was the depth and breadth of the knowledge of the people here and their friendliness and willingness to work together." Dr. Murphy will work closely with existing faculty and staff to facilitate strategic growth, including the addition of about 10 new faculty members.

"We need to make this a place where people are excited about coming to see us because, not only are we good at what we do, but we care and the culture is one in which the patients, nurses and doctors flourish," said Dr. Murphy.

Dr. Ana Alvarez Murphy

Strengthening clinical programs will strengthen educational and research activities, said Dr. Murphy, whose endometriosis research illustrates the type of translational studies encouraged nationally and on the MCG campus. Her laboratory studies linking oxidative stress to endometriosis and fibroids have led to a pilot study of women with endometriosis. Dr. Murphy and her colleagues are negotiating with the National Institutes of Health for a larger clinical trial that examines the potential of vitamins E and C. During her tenure at Emory, she helped develop a Division of Research within the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology that focused on such translational studies.

Dr. Murphy, who served as Anne Bates Winship Leach Professor of Gynecology, Obstetrics and Reproductive Endocrinology at Emory before joining MCG, also founded Emory's in vitro fertilization program and fellowship programs in reproductive endocrinology, infertility and pelvic surgery.

She is a grant reviewer for the NIH's National Institute of Child Health and Human Development for studies of the male and female reproductive systems and secured a Program Project Grant on endometriosis from the institute.

Dr. Murphy was a fellow in the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine program in 2001-02 and a member of the Executive Education Inaugural Class in Leadership Development at Emory in 2002-03. She serves on the International Committee of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine and previously served on its Executive Committee, Board of Directors and Finance Committee. She is a member and former president of the Women's Council of The American Society for Reproductive Medicine, formerly known as The American Fertility Society.

Dr. Murphy is a graduate of the University of Michigan Medical School in Ann Arbor and completed residency and fellowship training at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Toni Baker

Her Light

Pattie Clark

Nursing Student and Longtime Educator Honored Posthumously

in Life'

"The field of nursing was her life and it was her light in life to get people interested in a nursing career. Her number-one priority was the nursing profession and providing each of her students advice and assistance."

–Shawn Clark

As a nursing educator for 26 years, Pattie Clark's highest goal was to earn her doctorate from the Medical College of Georgia.

That dream was fulfilled posthumously June 7, two days after she lost a month-long battle with pancreatic cancer.

Mrs. Clark earned her master of nursing degree from MCG in 1980, then served as a nursing educator at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Ga.

"The field of nursing was her life and it was her light in life to get people interested in a nursing career," said her husband, Shawn Clark. "Her number-one priority was the nursing profession and providing each of her students advice and assistance."

Mrs. Clark returned to MCG last fall to complete her doctoral dissertation. She withdrew from the program nine years ago to serve as primary caregiver during her mother's battle with cancer.

"She had always regretted not finishing her doctoral degree and it became her top priority to return," explained Dr. Gerald Bennett, director of MCG's nursing doctoral program.

While this was a rare request for the MCG School of Nursing, administrators decided to reconsider Mrs. Clark as a doctoral candidate. After a thorough review process, she was re-admitted.

"It meant everything to her and she worked hard over the last several months updating her research," Mr. Clark said. "In fact, she spent the week before her diagnosis revamping her paper. She looked forward to performing the study and getting the results."

Mrs. Clark's doctoral research aimed to identify factors promoting breast self-examination for older women in rural areas. With a research interest in health promotion and early-detection behaviors, School of Nursing Dean Lucy N. Marion served as a dissertation advisor for Mrs. Clark over the last several months.

"Pattie was a driven, caring and smart nurse educator who was very interested in breast cancer detection and the health behaviors that go along with that," Dr. Marion said. "She was so caring about the low-income people in her area who didn't understand how a mammogram could save their lives."

Though Mrs. Clark's illness prevented her from completing her studies, Dr. Marion worked with MCG Provost Barry Goldstein and School of Graduate Studies Dean Gretchen Caughman to bestow an honorary degree. Her co-worker and close friend, Tammy Groover, was overjoyed when she heard the news.

"Achieving this goal would have been her life's dream come true," she said.

Mrs. Clark inspired hundreds to pursue a nursing career, many of whom serve the Tifton area. It comforted her that several of her former students cared for her during her illness, her husband said.

Ironically, Hospice of Tift Area, a service of Tift Regional Medical Center that Mrs. Clark helped establish in 1985, cared for her the day she died. Wendy Thompson, one of her former students, was Mrs. Clark's nurse that morning.

"It was a privilege to be there," Ms. Thompson said. "She was a wonderful and loving teacher, the kind who took the time to sit down with you until you got it. She was the type of person who could make a difficult task seem simple so you could grasp it."

Her compassion as a nurse and nursing educator is why students genuinely loved her, Ms. Groover explained.

"The common denominator when you talk to her students is that she not only cared for them, she put in extra hours to encourage them and never gave up on them," she said. "I can't begin to describe how loved and respected she was in the profession, community and her college campus." ⊶

Kim Miller

Digital Recording Technology Makes Coursework Portable

Tegrity

Jennifer Salgado, a second-year Medical College of Georgia neuroscience student, can attest to the advantages of modern teaching technology.

"We can access lectures and other resources 24 hours a day, which is great for graduate students busy with research projects," she said.

MCG's new neuroscience graduate program provided Dr. Darrell Brann, professor and associate director of the Institute of Neuroscience, a prime opportunity to introduce the latest technology in teaching. The coursework covers cellular and molecular neuroscience, nervous system development, sensory systems and regulatory systems that control functions such as breathing and metabolism.

"There's a need for better training in the diverse, multiple skills neuroscience graduates need to succeed in obtaining a faculty position," Dr. Brann said. "We believe technology can facilitate the learning experience and is thus an important part of the equation."

He highlighted the program's use of WebCT course sites, computer performance systems and Tegrity Campus, a digital recording technology, in an article on teaching and technology that appeared in the March issue of *Advances in Physiology Education*. The article also covered the design of the neuroscience curriculum and its focus on translational neuroscience training.

WebCT, a learning system used at universities nationwide since 1996, manages online courses. Tegrity, the recording software used at MCG, enhances WebCT by providing unlimited access to the classroom experience.

The Department of Medical Technology brought Tegrity to MCG in spring 2003. Other departments in the School of Allied Health Sciences adopted it shortly thereafter, and Dr. Brann introduced it to the School of Graduate Studies in 2005. The software was adopted in January as a campuswide Enterprise solution for online and distance education.

Tegrity records classroom lectures using a simple Webcam with a built-in microphone. The recording can be paused at any time during the lecture. After the lecture, the recording is uploaded to the Tegrity server, and the course director pastes a Web link on the WebCT course site for student access to the recording.

"The course evaluations and student feedback indicated that Tegrity greatly improved the students' learning experiences. The students were unanimous in viewing Tegrity as a valuable resource," Dr. Brann said.

One of the software's most popular features is an index that synchronizes the video lecture to the instructor's PowerPoint slides. Students can select which slide they wish to review, and the lecture begins at that point.

"Tegrity is different from any other teaching technology I've seen," Ms. Salgado said. "With other programs I used, you had to search for the section of lecture you wanted to listen to. Tegrity gives you an index so you can go directly to the section you want."

Students also can seek specific sections, pause, access help, control the volume and print slides from the presentation.

"I go back and watch at least part of every lecture," said Daniel Mandel, a second-year neuroscience student. "It's a wonderful thing."

Mr. Mandel said students do not abuse the technology, dismissing the idea that virtual lectures encourage absenteeism. "There's always one or two classes you're going to have to miss and it's helpful on those occasions," Mr. Mandel said. "But it's by no means a replacement for class."

Tegrity also provides software support for TabletPC, which lets professors write directly on their PowerPoint slides using a digital pen. The instructor can select pen color and line width, creating a mechanism for emphasizing key points in the lecture.

"When we review the lecture, we see the professor drawing on the slide in real time," Mr. Mandel said. "We can see as they say this point is important and they underline that sentence—it really drives the point home for me to hear it and see it pop up on the screen."

"In addition to hearing your professor's voice, you see their facial expressions and their hand movements. It all helps you remember what's being said and which parts are important."

– Daniel Mandel, second-year neuroscience student

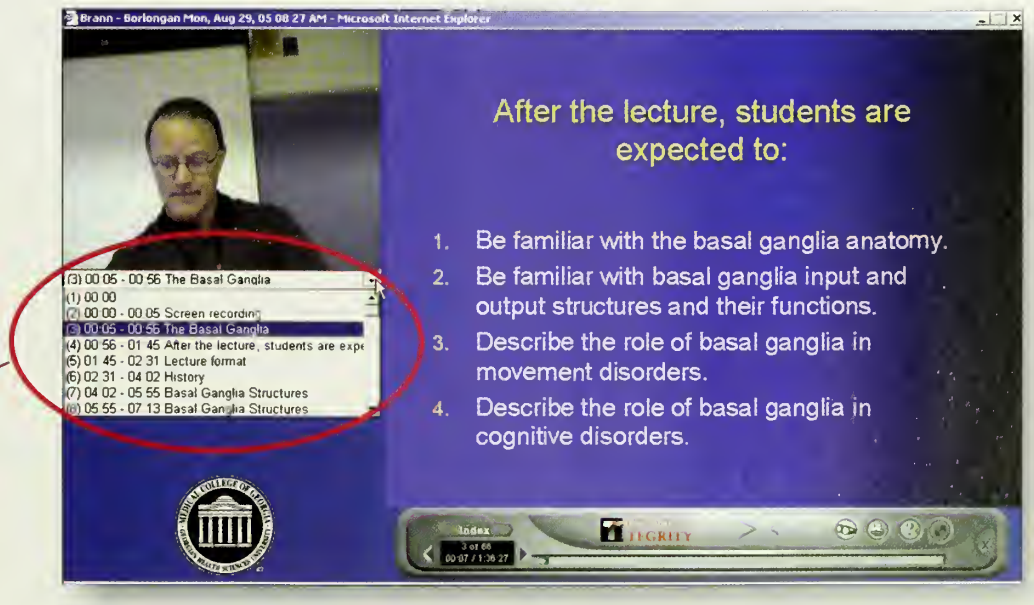
The software also provides a variety of memory triggers, far surpassing that of a binder full of notes.

"In addition to hearing your professor's voice, you see their facial expressions and their hand movements. It all helps you remember what's being said and which parts are important," Mr. Mandel explained.

MCG has obtained a license for a digital notes feature allowing students to use a digital pen with a notebook or tablet PC. The digital notes will synchronize with the Tegrity recording, allowing students to go back and select sections of their notes they wish to review.

"Technology incorporation in the classroom is a vital tool enhancing teaching effectiveness and the learning experience of our students," Dr. Brann said. "MCG is demonstrating itself a leader in the use of such technology."

Kim Miller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(3) 00 05 - 00 56 The Basal Ganglia
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(4) 00 56 - 01 45 After the lecture, students are expe
(5) 01 45 - 02 31 Lecture format
(6) 02 31 - 04 02 History
(7) 04 02 - 05 55 Basal Ganglia Structures
(8) 05 55 - 07 13 Basal Ganglia Structures
After the lecture, students are expected to:
1. Be familiar with the basal ganglia anatomy.
2. Be familiar with basal ganglia input and output structures and their functions.
3. Describe the role of basal ganglia in movement disorders.
4. Describe the role of basal ganglia in cognitive disorders.
Index
TEGRITY

Dr. Lamar Batts Peacock

'I Give MCG All the Credit'

Dr. Lamar Batts Peacock, better known as "Strut," sauntered into the 1945 Homecoming Tea Dance at the University of Georgia and asked for a dance with a striking young lady named Jane Bonner. Later that evening, she told her roommates, "I think I've met the man I am going to marry." By December, Lamar gave her his pin and they were married in June 1947.

That dance was especially euphoric for the young man from Albany, Ga., who just four years earlier spent 10 days in an iron lung while stricken with poliomyelitis. After paralysis and months of rehabilitation, he emerged from the illness with the determination to enter the medical profession.

"I had always been healthy as a hog till I went from playing three sets of tennis a day to not being able to do anything," he recalled. "After I recovered, the severe physical disability and associated emotional trauma I experienced helped me understand how a patient feels."

He enrolled in the Medical College of Georgia School of Medicine and quickly excelled in his studies. "The faculty was very accommodating and did everything possible to get me through the tough spots," said the man who graduated at the top of the 73-member class of 1946 and was president of MCG's chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society.

Dr. Peacock's 41-year career in allergy and internal medicine in Atlanta has included tenures as president of the Medical Association of Atlanta, vice president of the Medical Association of Georgia, president of the Southeastern Allergy Association and national president of the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. He was a member of the Georgia State Board of Health under three governors.

He attributes his ties to MCG with enabling him to initiate a program to train internal medicine residents at Georgia Baptist Hospital (now Atlanta Medical Center).

Dr. Peacock also credits MCG with giving him the educational foundation for his successful career. "I have been exposed to physicians educated and trained at the nation's best-known schools and never had the slightest feeling that I was not fully competitive," he said. "I have to give MCG all the credit for giving me the education that allowed me to accomplish my goals."

Photo provided

Dr. and Mrs. Lamar Batts Peacock

"MCG has just always meant so much to our family," said Mrs. Peacock. Their son, Dr. Lamar Bonner Peacock, completed his residency at MCG and served on the faculty in the Department of Internal Medicine for over a decade before entering private practice. Their grandson, Ryan Gossage, is a rising third-year medical student at MCG.

The Peacocks' devotion to the institution is reflected in their unwavering service and support. Dr. Peacock has served as president of both the School of Medicine Alumni Association and the MCG Foundation. They are founding members of the Milton Antony Guild, created to honor MCG's founder and to ensure the university's continued success through bequests, trusts and other life income gifts.

For information about making a gift that meets your unique financial needs, contact Tony Duva, vice president for gift planning, at aduva@mcg.edu, or 706-721-1939. ⊷

Ellen Gladden Jones

Charitable Gifts that Save for Retirement

A successful plastic surgeon came to his longtime financial adviser with a problem.

"My income taxes keep me from saving as much as I'd like for retirement," he said. Already at the maximum of what he can contribute to his 401(k) plan, he was unsure how to increase other deductions. A loyal Medical College of Georgia alumnus, he felt the time was right to give back to his alma mater, but he was nervous about how to give and save at the same time.

This situation is hypothetical, but the circumstances are far from unique. Many high-income professionals utilize charitable interests for tax relief and supplementary retirement savings vehicles.

A retirement unitrust, also known as a charitable IRA, is a useful tool for those seeking to save for retirement while investing in the future of a charitable or educational institution. A charitable IRA offers:

* an income tax deduction for part of the funds or property transferred to the trust, based on the donor's age at the time of contribution and the amount of income retained.
* deferral of the bulk of the trust income until retirement. The principal typically grows quickly because the trust is tax-exempt.
* payment of substantial income after retirement, with the potential for some payments to be taxed favorably as long-term capital gain or tax-free principal.
* an important gift to ensure the future of health care and health science education in Georgia.

Stocks, mutual funds, property or other assets will enlarge a trust principal but will pay out very little income until retirement. The donor designates what the age of retirement will be when the trust is drafted. After retirement, the donor receives a negotiated percentage of the trust's value in payments for life.

Options for Remembering MCG in Your Will

- A bequest of a fixed dollar amount.
- A percentage of your estate, allowing you to keep the division of the estate residue in desired proportions regardless of its size.
- A contingent gift in which funds go to MCG if a designated beneficiary predeceases you.
- A trust that pays income to a designated individual for life, with the remaining principal to be given to MCG thereafter.
- A gift in memory/honor of yourself, your family or a person you have loved or admired.

Professionals in the Medical College of Georgia Division of University Advancement are available to help faculty, alumni and friends of the institution with individual financial needs. For more information on how to maximize your retirement savings and minimize your tax liability, give me a call or drop me an e-mail.

Sincerely,

Tony Duva
Associate Vice President for Gift Planning
800-860-1113
aduva@mcg.edu

INFORMATION IN THIS ARTICLE IS NOT INTENDED AS LEGAL ADVICE. FOR LEGAL ADVICE, PLEASE CONSULT AN ATTORNEY. TAX LAWS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

News MAKERS

Dr. Robert J. Adams, stroke specialist, Presidential Distinguished Chair, Regents Professor of Neurology and professor of pediatrics, has received the 2005 Distinguished Achievement Award from the American Stroke Association, a division of the American Heart Association. He also received an Award of Meritorious Achievement from the American Heart Association for his work in stroke-related initiatives.

Dr. Sally S. Atherton, chair of the Department of Cellular Biology and Anatomy, has been elected to a five-year term as executive vice president of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology.

Dr. Jatinder Bhatia, chief of the Section of Neonatology and vice chair for clinical research in the Department of Pediatrics, has been named president of the Southern Society for Pediatric Research. The 800-member society, which represents Southern states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico, hosts annual research meetings and sponsors research and travel awards for basic scientists, clinical investigators, pediatric educators and future pediatricians.

Dr. Wendy Bollag, a cell physiologist in the Institute of Molecular Medicine and Genetics, has been named to the editorial board of the *Journal of Lipid Research,* which focuses on the biology of lipids in health and disease. She will serve a three-year term.

Dr. Jerry J. Buccafusco, founding director of the Alzheimer's Research Center, has co-edited the textbook, *Animal Models of Cognitive Impairment* (CRC Press, 2006). The book, a volume in the Frontiers in Neuroscience Series, examines animal models for drug recovery and synopsizes cognition-related research.

Dr. Peter F. Buckley, chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior, has been named inaugural chair of the National Institutes of Health's Interventions Committee for Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders, Personality Disorders and Disorders of Late Life. The 15-member committee of the National Institute of Mental Health reviews grant applications to the institute to fund innovative treatment protocols for schizophrenia and related disorders.

Dr. Cynthia Chernecky, professor of physiological and technological nursing, has been named a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.

Dr. William K. Dolen, an MCG allergist-immunologist and president of the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, recently served as the national allergy group's representative to the general meeting and official launch of the World Health Organization's Global Alliance against Respiratory Diseases in Beijing. The alliance consists of 41 international organizations and agencies aiming to reduce the worldwide burden of chronic rhinitis, asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Anthony "Tony" Duva has been named associate vice president for gift planning and senior director of development for the School of Medicine. He will coordinate gift-planning activities for MCG's five schools and MCG Health, Inc., develop and oversee gifts from donor estates and identify, solicit and manage the cultivation of major donor prospects for the School of Medicine. He joined MCG in 2003 as senior director of development, central operations and planned giving.

Dr. C. Alvin Head, chair of the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine, has been elected to a second four-year term on the American Medical Association's Council on Science and Public Health. The 12-member council reports on medical, public health and scientific issues affecting the practice of medicine.

Dr. Joseph Hobbs, chair of the Department of Family Medicine and vice dean for primary care and community affairs in the School of Medicine, has been appointed to the Council on Graduate Medical Education of the Health Resources and Services Administration. The council assesses the nation's physician workforce and makes recommendations for federal and private-sector initiatives to meet needs to the secretary of Health and Human Services, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions and the House of Representatives Committee on Commerce.

Denise Hodo, a student in the master of public health program, has received a $1,000 scholarship from the Georgia Health Association, a non-profit corporation that promotes the public and personal health of Georgians. The award encourages students to pursue public health studies and careers.

Dr. Gary Holmes, assistant professor of oral rehabilitation, has received the Excellence in Dental Education Award from the Georgia Section of the Pierre Fauchard Academy. The award, presented at the academy's annual conference Feb. 4, recognizes clinical excellence and encourages junior faculty to stay in academic dentistry.

Dr. Stilianos E. Kountakis, vice chair of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and director of the Division of Rhinology, has been elected second vice president of the American Rhinologic Society.

Dr. Carol Lefebvre, professor of oral rehabilitation and oral biology, has been named the School of Dentistry's associate dean for strategic initiatives and faculty development.

Dr. Bruce MacFadyen Jr., Moretz/Mansburger Distinguished Chair of Surgery, has received the 2006 Distinguished Service Award from the Society of American Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeons. The award honors contributions to surgical endoscopy and advancing the society's mission.

Dr. Lynnette P. McCluskey, an MCG neuroscientist using taste buds as a model for studying nerve regeneration, has received the 2006 Ajinomoto Award for Young Investigators in Gustation. Her work, funded by the National Institutes of Health's Institute of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, involves the role of the immune system in helping nerves regenerate.

Elizabeth "Betty" Meehan has been named associate vice president for development. She will oversee development activities for the Schools of Allied Health Sciences, Dentistry, Graduate Studies and Nursing. She joined MCG in 2002 as senior director of development, constituent operations and director of development for the School of Nursing.

Dr. Shelley Mishoe, dean of the School of Allied Health Sciences, has been elected chair of the Southern Association of Allied Health Deans, chair-elect of the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care of the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Educational Programs and a member of the Georgia State Epidemiological Outcomes Work Group for substance abuse prevention.

Sheila Mobley, a nurse clinician at the Augusta Multiple Sclerosis Center, a joint venture of the MCG Neuroscience Center and Walton Rehabilitation Hospital, has been named an Expert MS Professional by the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers.

Dr. Michael L. Myers, interim chair of Department of Oral Rehabilitation since 2003, has been named chair. Dr. Myers, a faculty member since 1990, received the Georgia Section of the American College of Dentists Professionalism Award in 1995 and 2003. The School of Dentistry class of 2000 named Dr. Myers Outstanding Clinical Instructor and he received the school's 2000 Teaching Excellence Award.

Dr. Robert Nesbit, Professor Emeritus of Surgery, has been elected to a two-year term as chair of the new Surgery Clerkship Directors Committee of the Association for Surgical Education. The committee will address new accreditation standards for surgical rotations and other issues common to surgical clerkship directors.

Dr. Dennis Ownby, chief of the Section of Allergy and Immunology, has been appointed to the Infectious Diseases, Reproductive Health, Asthma and Pulmonary Conditions Study Section of the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Jay J. Pillai, director of neuro-magnetic resonance imaging and associate professor of radiology, has been elected secretary of the American Society of Functional Neuroradiology for 2006-07. Dr. Pillai, president of the MCG School of Medicine Faculty Senate, also has been appointed chair of the national organization's membership committee. He recently completed a one-year term as the society's treasurer.

Dr. Gregory N. Postma, professor of otolaryngology-head and neck surgery and director of the Center for Voice and Swallowing Disorders, has been elected secretary of the American Broncho-Esophagological Association.

Recipients of MCG's 2006 Outstanding Faculty Awards were **Rebecca Lam**, associate professor of biomedical and radiological technologies, from the School of Allied Health Sciences; **Dr. Kevin D. Plummer**, assistant professor of oral rehabilitation, from the School of Dentistry; **Dr. Wendy Bollag**, professor of medicine, from the School of Graduate Studies; **Dr. Robert Yu**, director of the Institute of Molecular Medicine and Genetics and the Institute of Neuroscience, from the School of Medicine; and **Dr. Jeannette Andrews**, assistant professor of nursing, from the School of Nursing.

Retiring faculty honored during MCG's April 27 General Faculty Assembly were **Franklin H. Dennison**, associate professor of respiratory therapy; **Dr. William F. Kimbrough**, associate professor and director of undergraduate endodontics; **Dr. Edna L. Pashley**, vice chair of oral diagnosis; **Dr. William H. Hoffman**, professor of pediatrics; **Dr. John R. Molinaro**, assistant professor of medicine; **David J. Anna**, assistant professor in health environments and systems; and **JacqueLyn H. Dennison**, assistant director of library operations.

Hal Scott, vice president of information services and chief information officer of MCG Health, Inc., has been named a member of the Certification Process Advisory Group of the Certification Commission for Health Information Technology. The 16-member group will develop an inspection process by which the commission's electronic health records products can be certified.

Peter Shipman, assistant professor and outreach librarian at the Robert B. Greenblatt, M.D. Library at the Medical College of Georgia, has been named a Governor's Teaching Fellow for the 2006 Summer Symposium. Co-sponsored by the Institute of Higher Education and the Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of Georgia, the program enables Georgia's higher education faculty to develop and improve important teaching skills.

Dr. J. Graham "Skee" Smith, retired professor and founding chair of the Department of Rheumatology, has received the 2005 Distinguished Service Award from the Southern Medical Association.

Dr. Ying C. Song, clinical associate professor in the Department of Surgery and Institute of Molecular Medicine and Genetics and director of research for Augusta-based Xytex Research/Xytex International, has been appointed to the editorial board of the journal *Cryobiology*.

Fatima Cody Stanford, third-year medical student, has received a Ruth Jackson Orthopaedic Medical Society Student Scholarship, given annually to two U.S. female medical students who show promise in the field. The scholarship helped fund her trip to the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons meeting in Chicago March 22-26.

Dr. William B. Strong, Emeritus Leon Henri Charbonnier Professor of Pediatrics and Section Chief Emeritus of Pediatric Cardiology, has received the 2006 Ross Award in Pediatric Education from the Southern Society for Pediatric Research. The award honors educators for stimulating students to provide excellent health care to children, helping develop and administer pediatric curricula or parent-child educational programs and serving as a role model.

Dr. Robert K. Yu, director of the Institute of Molecular Medicine and Genetics and the Institute of Neuroscience, has been appointed to the editorial board of the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*. He will serve a five-year term on the board of the journal of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

Welcome, NEW FACULTY

School of Allied Health Sciences

Dr. Scott A. Martin joins the physician assistant faculty after earning a physician assistant degree summa cum laude from MCG in 2005. He has bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in animal science.

Robert Gregory Stowers, assistant professor of physician assistant, earned his physician assistant degree from MCG and his master's degree in higher education administration from Troy State University.

School of Dentistry

Dr. Daniel Levy Bercowski, assistant professor of orthodontics, earned a dental degree, master of pediatric dentistry degree and master of dental sciences degree from the University of Zulia, Venezuela.

Dr. Glenn Ian Maze, professor and director of advanced education in periodontics, earned a dental degree from the University of Iowa and served as director of advanced education in periodontics before joining the MCG faculty.

Dr. Walter (Jack) Morris, assistant professor of oral rehabilitation, is director of the U.S. Army Prosthodontic Residency at Fort Gordon, Ga.

Dr. Amara C. Abreu Serrano, instructor of oral rehabilitation, earned a dental degree from the University of Zulia, Venezuela and a master's degree in dental sciences from the University of Puerto Rico.

Dr. Mark R. Stevens, professor and chair of oral and maxillofacial surgery, comes to MCG from the University of Miami. He earned a dental degree from the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry and completed residencies in general practice dentistry and oral/maxillofacial surgery.

School of Medicine

Ray Brees, director of anesthesiology, has accounting and M.B.A. degrees and worked in a private-sector anesthesia practice before joining MCG. He is a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and the Healthcare Financial Management Association.

Gail Cresci, assistant professor of surgery, earned a master's degree in clinical nutrition and is completing her doctorate in biomedical sciences at MCG. She has served on the clinical faculty since 1994 and is a member of the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition, the American Dietetic Association and the Society of Critical Care Medicine.

Dr. Alison Lauber, associate professor of family medicine, graduated from MCG in 1979 and practiced in rural Alabama and Alaska and served on the Emory University faculty before joining MCG. She has special interests in counseling for female sexual dysfunction, family-centered maternity care, chronic pain management, complementary medicine and acupuncture.

School of Nursing

Corey Peterson, assistant program director of nursing anesthesia, served as deputy director/assistant professor, phase II of the Army Graduate Program in Anesthesia Nursing at Eisenhower Army Medical Center before joining MCG. He holds a bachelor's degree in zoology and a master's degree in nursing from the University of Texas at Austin. He is a Distinguished Honor Graduate of the U.S. Army Graduate Program in Anesthesia Nursing, from which he obtained a second master's degree in nursing.

MCG Health System

Dennis R. Roemer, a certified public accountant, joins MCG Health, Inc., as senior vice president of finance and chief financial officer. He was formerly the senior executive vice president and chief financial officer at Cooper Health System in Camden, N.J.

CLASS notes

Allied Health Sciences

Dentistry

Graduate Studies

Medicine

Nursing

Charles T. "Chuck" Adams *(nuclear medicine technology, '83)*, Atlanta, has been appointed by Gov. Sonny Perdue to the Health Strategies Council. Mr. Adams, who earned a master's degree in business administration from Brenau University, is chief executive officer of Ty Cobb Healthcare System serving Franklin, Hart, Madison and Barrow counties.

Pamela S. Bush *(dental hygiene, '86)*, Augusta, has been named a dental hygienist representative to the Georgia Board of Dentistry by Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue. Ms. Bush, a hygienist in two private practices, is a member of the Georgia Dental Hygienists Association, the American Dental Hygienists Association and the Central Savannah River Area Dental Hygiene Society.

Heather Nicole Reece *(health information administration, '02)*, Gillsville, Ga., recently received her Imaging Customer Certification in Health Information Management from McKesson's Enterprise Imaging Group. Certification reflects a passing score on a 200-question exam offered to customers who have been using the McKesson system for at least a year. Fewer than 40 individuals worldwide have this designation.

Brianna Michelle Whitworth *(radiological sciences, 2002)*, an ultrasound technician at St. Mary's Hospital in Athens, Ga., married Joseph Godfrey Hay Jr. Feb. 4 in Lawrenceville, Ga.

Dr. Bruce Ashendorf *('81)* served as general chair of the Thomas P. Hinman Dental Meeting March 23-25 in Atlanta. The meeting, one of the country's largest and most prestigious continuing education programs for the dental profession, annually attracts more than 23,000 dental professionals nationwide to participate in the lectures, seminars and exhibits. Dr. Ashendorf supervised and managed all aspects of planning for the meeting. He has been a practicing dentist in Georgia for more than 25 years and currently practices general and restorative dentistry in Tucker, Ga.

Dr. Judson Connell *('91)* practices adult cosmetic, reconstructive and neuromuscular dentistry in Suwanee, Ga.

Dr. W.G. "Curly" Watson *('43)* celebrated his 96th birthday Feb. 25 and was feted the previous day with a celebration on the front lawn of Augusta's University Hospital. Present and former patients, friends and co-workers gathered to wish him well and express appreciation for a 60-plus year career that has included ushering more than 15,000 babies into the world, including two of his physician partners. University Hospital's Watson Women's Center is named in his honor.

Dr. Irving Victor *('45)*, Savannah, Ga., received a proclamation from the Chatham County Commission Jan. 27 for helping establish the Chatham County Emergency Medical Service 35 years ago. Dr. Victor, assistant to the president of St. Joseph's/Candler General Hospital, is a urologist and former chief of staff for St. Joseph's. He has chaired the Coastal Area Planning and Development Commission and served on the Board of Directors of the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce, United Way, Union Mission and Memorial Medical Center. He is an active member of the Savannah Waterfront Association.

Dr. J. Daniel Hanks *('69)*, Rome, Ga., has been appointed to the Georgia Board for Physician Workforce as a non-primary care physician representative by Gov. Sonny Perdue. Dr. Hanks, a radiologist at the Rome Radiology Group, is a past president of the Georgia Radiological Society, a past member of the Medical Association of Georgia Board of Directors, a past chair of the MCG Foundation and a member of the Rome Area History Museum Board of Directors.

Dr. Gilbert S. Klemann *('69)*, Albany, Ga., has been appointed to the Georgia Board for Physician Workforce as a primary care physician representative by Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue. Dr. Klemann, senior and managing partner of Albany Obstetrics and Gynecology, is a former member of the American Medical Association, the American Medical Society of Vienna and the American Fertility Society.

Dr. Richard Kauffman *('76)*, Vinings, Ga., has received the Rotary Centennial Award for Professional Excellence. Dr. Kauffman treats over 15,000 patients in his Family Health Care Center. The center doesn't require appointments, and Dr. Kauffman often makes house calls. He spent the summer of 2004 volunteering treatment to HIV/AIDS patients in Cambodia.

Dr. Farrell H. Braziel *('79)*, Roswell, Ga., has been named the 2005 Psychiatrist of the Year by the Georgia Psychiatric Physicians Association. He is the managing partner of the Cumberland Psychiatric Group with offices in Roswell, Duluth, Smyrna and Decatur, Ga., offering a full range of psychiatric and addictive services with strong focus on family involvement and a support system for patients.

Dr. John T. Perry *('79)*, White, Ga., has been appointed to the State Board of Medical Examiners by Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue. Dr. Perry is president and senior associate at Cartersville Surgical Associates. He also is director of Century Bank and chair of the governmental committee for the Bartow Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Perry is a member of the Medical Association of Georgia, the Georgia Surgical Society and the Atlanta Vascular Society. He and wife Carlene have three children.

Dr. Christopher Cates *('82)* reported on the effectiveness of using a virtual patient simulator to practice risky catheter procedures in the May 2, 2006 edition of the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*. Dr. Cates is on the faculty of the Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta.

Dr. Linda McKibben *('82)*, a former medical officer with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has joined The Lewin Group, a leading health care and human services consulting firm, as a vice president, in Falls Church, Va. At the CDC's National Center for Infectious Diseases, Dr. McKibben was coordinator of patient safety activities and medical officer in the Prevention and Evaluation Branch of the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion.

Photo provided

Drs. Dan Mingea, Jimmy Sikes and **Luther Street**, all graduates of the class of *'71*, recently celebrated their 35th graduation anniversary at the Inn on the Creek in Salado, Texas. Other Texas members of the class, **Drs. Cleve Collins** and **Bob Gunby**, were unable to attend. Dr. Sikes is a psychiatrist with The Texas State School in Big Springs. Dr. Street has been a pediatrician in Belton, Texas for 30 years. The Texas reunion group spent the weekend remembering their Georgia classmates.

Dr. F. Stuart Sanders *('82)* chaired the International Heart and Lung Games Committee of the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation. The association sponsored its second international Olympic-style event in May in Chicago. The event, designed to motivate and inspire cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation patients, draws athletes worldwide. "This event is something our patients train for and look forward to for years and is an excellent way to promote cardiac and pulmonary health," Dr. Sanders said.

Dr. E. Chandler McDavid *('83)*, Sandersville, Ga., has been named a primary care physician representative to the Georgia Board for Physician Workforce by Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue. Dr. McDavid, managing physician at Sandersville Family Practice Center, is a member of the American Academy of Family Practice.

Dr. H. Stacy Nicholson *('85)* chairs pediatrics in the Oregon Health & Science University School of Medicine and is physician-in-chief at Doernbecher Children's Hospital. He earned his master's degree in biostatistics from the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services. He trained in pediatrics and pediatric hematology/oncology at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and in cancer epidemiology at the National Cancer Institute. He has held leadership positions in the American Society for Pediatric Hematology/ Oncology and the Children's Oncology Group.

Dr. J.P. (Yusuf) Saleeby *('91)*, Hinesville, Ga., published his first book in paperback in April. The book, *Wonder Herbs: A Guide to Three Adaptogens*, is for the lay public as well as the medical practitioner. Visit www.xlibris.com/wonderherbs for more information.

Dr. John T. Cope *('94)*, an MCG assistant professor of internal medicine who teaches senior medical students at his private practice, Habersham Primary Care, in Demorest, Ga., recently received the Community Based Teaching Award from the Georgia chapter of the American College of Physicians.

Dr. T. Robert Dyar Jr. *('95)*, Marietta, Ga., has been appointed to Georgia's Health Strategies Council by Gov. Sonny Perdue. Dr. Dyar chairs the Kennestone Hospital Department of Obstetrics/ Gynecology and is an obstetrician/gynecologist at North Cobb Women's Health. He is a fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology and a member of the Medical Association of Georgia. Ha and wife Susan have two children.

Dr. Jennifer Erdin *('99)* specializes in pediatric medicine at NorthEast Medical Center in Charlotte, N.C. She completed a pediatrics residency at the University of Tennessee in Memphis and is certified by the American Board of Pediatrics. Her husband, Dr. Robert Erdin ('99), specializes in orthopedic surgery at NorthEast. He completed an orthopedic surgery residency and a fellowship in foot and ankle surgery at the University of Tennessee's Campbell Clinic in Memphis.

Dr. Chad Marley *('00)* is serving just north of Baghdad as a brigade surgeon. He oversees seven doctors and eight physician assistants to provide medical care and supplies for the 5,500 soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team. He also works with Iraqi health care providers to improve the medical system. Dr. Marley, a three-time state champion wrestler at Shiloh High School in Gwinnett County, Ga., recently was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame. He and his wife have a year-old son, Max.

Obituaries

Dr. Robert Hoyt Anderson Jr. *('56)*, Gainesville, Ga., died Jan. 24 at age 78. He practiced general surgery in Gainesville for 32 years, retiring in 1993. His career included serving as chief of staff at Northeast Georgia Medical Center. He enjoyed every minute of his retirement pursuing hobbies including golf, hunting, gardening, oil painting and traveling. He also enjoyed his grandchildren's sports and activities, attending as many as three games in a single day.

Dr. William Palmer McNair Sr. *('56)* died Sept. 22 at age 77 in Soperton, Ga. He opened a general and surgical practice in Soperton in 1957 and was still an active general practitioner at the time of his death. He had served as medical director of the Skilled Care Nursing Home in Soperton and medical examiner for Treutlen County. He was a member of the American Medical Association, Southeast Medical Society, Medical Association of Georgia and Southern Medical Association. Survivors include three sons, a daughter-in-law and seven grandchildren.

Dr. George Patterson Williams *('62)* died Feb. 25. He practiced obstetrics and gynecology in Augusta for 31 years. He was a fellow in the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and a past president of the Augusta Ob-Gyn Society. Survivors include wife Bunny Simon Williams, three daughters, four sons, 12 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Loris Belle (Lou) Rissman Levy, wife of Dr. Maurice Levy, former associate dean for faculty development and professor of pediatrics, died Nov. 25 at Hilton Head Island following a battle with lung cancer. She taught for over 30 years, most of that time in the Richmond County public schools. In addition to her husband, survivors include daughters Dr. Arden L. Levy (School of Medicine class of '89) and Dr. Andrea H. Levy (School of Medicine class of '91), son James M. Levy and a sister. Memorial donations in her honor may be made to the MCG Foundation, Inc., FI-1000, Augusta, Ga., 30912-7730, or the Palmetto Health Hospice, 27 Dr. Mellichamp Drive, Bluffton, S.C., 29910.

Norma Manning Payne, wife of Dr. Peter M. Payne, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and president of the Alumni Association of the School of Medicine, died April 1. She was a University Hospital School of Nursing alumna and very active in her church and community.

Dr. Charles Brinson Shiver Jr. *('49)* died Feb. 15. Dr. Shiver practiced internal medicine in Augusta for 48 years. He was on the staff at St. Joseph and University Hospitals and was a founding member of Augusta's Doctors Hospital. Survivors include wife Toni Shiver, four children, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Connie Tomlison Crenshaw *(B.S.N., '76 and M.S.N., '81)* was honored at the 2006 Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Drive for a Cure at Augusta's Taylor BMW.

Susanne Kelley Hanada *(B.S.N., '04)* works at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and married Michael Allen Corbin June 3.

Lindsay Erin McClellan *(B.S.N., '05)* married James Dustin Keeble July 16. They live in New York.

Obituaries

Ruby Annette Sanders *('77)*, Warner Robins, Ga., died March 22. She worked for 15 years at the Medical Center of Central Georgia in nursing and management, retiring in 1995. Survivors include her husband, Ned M. Sanders, a son, a daughter and two grandchildren.

For the Record

We'd like to hear from you! To help us keep you up to date on what's happening at the Medical College of Georgia, please keep us up to date on what's happening with you. Please send to:

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'Abilitations' are Limitless

by Ilana M. Danneman

One thing leads to another.

It's a trite saying but one that applies perfectly to the career I've crafted since graduating from the Medical College of Georgia Department of Physical Therapy in 1986.

I began my career as a physical therapist at Atlanta's Crawford Long Hospital, then moved to the Shepherd Spinal Center. That's where I met the president of Sportime International, a company that manufactures physical education equipment. He offered me a job writing a Sportime catalog specializing in physical therapy products for children, called Abilitations.

At this point, I was pondering the limits of my own "abilitations." I'd never worked in sales, yet I was thoroughly versed in the kinds of products children need to optimize functioning and quality of life. I also had a newborn, which made the flexibility of the new job enticing.

So I took it. It wasn't easy; I was Sportime's first female director, and the company sold Abilitations to its current owner, School Specialty, soon after I came on board. Most daunting was my learning curve, which was steep, to say the least. But I learned about marketing and catalog production as I went along, focusing on the children I was serving, along with their parents, teachers and therapists. I didn't obsess about my competitors, instead trusting my instincts and gauging my progress through sales. I added occupational therapy and speech/language products to the catalog.

Next, I decided to add an educational element to the catalog. Now, when we sell playground equipment adapted to special-needs children, for example, we explain how and why it will help children develop their motor skills. Or we explain the science and logic behind multi-textured wall panels to aid in sensory development. I also added an emotional element to the catalog text so customers could relate to the children and, therefore, the products.

photo provided

Ilana M. Danneman with daughter Carmelle

The next logical step was to actually develop and design some of the products myself. My colleagues and I currently have 80 ideas in various stages of development. I don't personally receive royalties, but I love this aspect of my job as it is creative and allows me to influence the market. Our products have been featured on the popular television show, *Extreme Home Makeover*.

On a personal note, I have a very supportive husband and four children, on whom I often test products and who are frequently the stimulus behind products I design. I very much enjoy being a mom, and School Specialty has provided me with a lot of flexibility.

I have the best of both worlds. I was the first person in our company to create a flexible work schedule and I am happy to say that I paved the way for many other employees.

I love my job and most of all am grateful to MCG and the Department of Physical Therapy for providing a knowledge base that has served me well in every aspect of my career. I don't know what the future holds, but I know I'll be prepared to seize every opportunity that comes my way.

Medical College of Georgia Today welcomes submissions to the Reflections column of the magazine. Typed essays (approx. 750 words long) reflecting a professional or personal experience of a member of the MCG community should be submitted to:
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WWW.MCG.EDU

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Welcome Home!

Approximately 800 alumni visited campus April 27-30 for Homecoming 2006. Events included receptions for all five schools, Distinguished Alumni Award presentations, a cookout at the president's home, class reunions, a dance and many other activities.

Medical College of Georgia
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